

# The Oregonian

ESTABLISHED BY HENRY L. PITTOCK  
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WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1954

## Testing a Theory

When a Negro family moves into a block that previously has been occupied solely by white families, there usually is a great deal of comment, and sometimes an unreasoning panic.

It is not altogether a matter of racial prejudice, for most of us now realize, through experience with Oregon's anti-discrimination laws, that it is quite possible for whites and non-whites to work, play and live side by side in neighborly accord.

But there remains the bugaboo of property devaluation that many white homeowners fear will occur with the coming of non-whites. This belief is the last great obstacle which deprives our non-Caucasian friends of the full enjoyment of the rights and privileges guaranteed to all citizens under the federal constitution and Oregon state law.

Is it true that the market price of other houses in an all-white neighborhood will drop if one of them is purchased by a Negro? This belief is widely held among real estate men, lending agencies and property owners. Others can be found who will dispute it. But there is little substantial evidence either to prove or disprove the theory.

It is to test this belief that the Urban league has embarked on a survey to determine the precise economic effects of non-white entry into all-white districts in the past five years in Portland. With the assistance of the Portland city planning commission and other interested organizations and individuals, the league will collect facts and opinions from real estate brokers, the bureau of the census, the county assessor's office, and residents of appropriate neighborhoods. The fluctuations in market prices of houses in such areas then will be compared with the price behavior of similar types of houses in neighborhoods that have remained all-white.

Similar studies have been made in a few other U. S. cities, notably in San Francisco. Luigi M.

Laurenti, writing in the July, 1952, issue of The Appraisal Journal, a real property publication, said results of a survey made there "do not show that any deterioration in market prices occurred following changes in the racial pattern."

The study did show, however, that about 9 per cent of the sales to white buyers in the affected areas were made at prices between 12 and 22 per cent lower than those for comparable properties in control areas, and about 4 per cent of the sales to non-white buyers were at prices between 22 and 26 per cent higher. It appears there was a minority of panic sales at a discount by white families anxious to flee the non-white invasion, and also instances of successful gouging by property owners who took advantage of the eagerness of non-whites to escape the rigid patterns of residential segregation which have been set up in most cities.

Portland's Negro population in 1940 was 1934 persons. Some 23,000 Negroes were attracted to the community by jobs in war plants here in 1942-45. Most of these left after the war, but it is estimated there are now 10,500 Negroes in the city, with more migrating here as time goes on. This has resulted in a severe housing problem because of the unofficial pattern that has developed of confining Negro citizens chiefly to the N. Williams avenue area. As the Urban league points out, this situation has the potential also for a serious social problem for the city.

With the aid of the FEP law and a more enlightened attitude on the part of employers, the economic position of Negro families in Portland has improved greatly. They want, need, and can afford better housing, but restrictive sales and financing practices have denied them equal access to the housing market. If the findings of the new survey are what the Urban league confidently hopes they will be, the justification for such practices will vanish.

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**URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND**  
202 McKay Building  
Portland 4, Oregon

Memo.

Following the publicity on the markings on the First Congregational Church on S. W. Park, this office discussed the matter with Dr. Caldwell, minister of the church, who stated that he believed the report by the assistant was taken much too seriously, and that the newspaper report was overdrawn.

Since the incidents of the crayon markings as reported in the paper, there have been no further markings on any of the walls. It was Dr. Caldwell's opinion that this was a few kids who were just trying to be smart-alecks.

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18, 1967



**MARKINGS**, believed to be work of vandals or racists have been showing for past three weeks on walls of First Congregational Church, 1126 SW Park Ave. Others

read, "No God," "Fake." Police are investigating. (Picture retouched to show details.)

## Swastikas Mar Walls Of Church

A Portland church which has a "vigorous civil rights philosophy" and several Negro members, has been the victim of vandals who in the past three weeks have defaced the exterior of its walls.

Police were investigating the matter Wednesday.

**ACCORDING** to Thomas Kirk, custodian of First Congregational Church at 1126 SW Park Ave., where the defacing has appeared, markings in yellow crayon have read, "KKK," "Fake" and "No God." Swastikas symbolizing the Nazi party also have been scribbled there.

The markings have appeared on at least five occasions in the past three weeks, said Rev. John C. Randlett, assistant pastor.

Kirk told patrolman Lud Bernardinelli that the vandals have restricted their activities to Friday nights, for the past three weeks, until this week. He said they have left the scribbles there for the past three nights.

**RANDLETT** reported that the church had a "vigorous civil rights philosophy" and that several of its members are Negroes. He speculated that this might be the reason the defacing has taken place.

Randlett also said Dr. Royald V. Caldwell, pastor of the church, has preached numerous strong civil rights sermons lately. One of the church leaders, Mark Smith, is a Negro who is employed by the state's Fair Employment Practices Division in the Department of Labor.



# Hate crimes soar in Portland, Ore.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — In other cities, hate crimes typically decrease markedly after a racially motivated killing, authorities say. But reported hate crimes are booming in this nearly all-white city since "skinheads" beat an Ethiopian immigrant to death in November.

Police report heightened activity by skinheads — young, white racists who affect shaved heads and military garb — since the killing of Mulugeta Seraw. Police also blame increased violence on recruitment by racist groups targeting the Northwest, with its small minority populations, for an Aryan homeland.

"In their minds, it's easier to get rid of blacks and Chinese and whatnot in Oregon than in New Jersey," said Loren Christensen of the Portland Police Bureau.

From May 1988 until Seraw's death Nov. 12, nine racially motivated crimes were reported in Multnomah County, which encompasses Portland and suburbs — but 77 were reported after the killing through May 10 this year, the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission said.

Georgia Owens, who compiled those figures, said it was possible publicity about Seraw's death may have prompted more victims to report such crimes.

Christensen, who tracks skinheads for the police, said he began getting calls after the killing from teachers reporting some students had shaved their heads.

"A lot of people got caught up in the glamour of that homicide," Christensen said, "street-type people looking for a cause, something to identify with."

He also cited recruiting efforts by Tom Metzger, a southern California television repairman who

## Bucking usual trend elsewhere, skinhead activity rises markedly

heads the White Aryan Resistance, and Metzger's son, John, president of the Aryan Youth Movement.

Christensen said organized groups like WAR aren't as active in Portland as "freelance" skinheads, who travel in groups of three to 20.

Two skinheads have pleaded guilty in Seraw's killing and a third is awaiting trial. Authorities say the skinheads attacked Seraw and two companions outside Seraw's home in southeast Portland, clubbing him to death with a baseball bat.

Skinheads were responsible for at least 46 of the 86 hate crimes reported in the Portland area during the year ended May 10, Owens said. Of those incidents, 26 involved violence; most of the rest were harassment, intimidation and vandalism.

"A lot of the victimless crimes, leafletting and vandalism, those were not counted in the skinhead category. If we couldn't say a skinhead group had done it, we didn't include it," said Owens.

Whatever the reason for the increase in reported hate crimes, Marvin Stern of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in Seattle said it defies the trend.

"In every other city in the country where skinheads are active, once an act has been committed and responded to by law enforcement, we've seen a great decline in activity or almost disappearance," Stern said.

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## Racism protested



Part of the estimated 300 protesters at Friday's rally at City Hall.

Photo courtesy of THE OREGONIAN

## Rally draws 300

by SUSAN POLK  
of the Vanguard staff

Portland's increasing problem of racially-motivated crime was the theme of a heated rally outside City Hall last Friday. Oregon politicians and PSU representatives addressed an enthusiastic, vocal crowd of about 300 people who gathered to protest the slaying of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian native and former PSU student.

Seraw was beaten to death last Sunday outside his home by three white youths who beat him with a baseball bat and kicked him in the head, according to witnesses. Seraw died in a hospital eight

hours later.

Three suspects have been arrested in connection with Seraw's death, all of whom are known to be members of East Side White Pride, the largest of Portland's Skinhead gangs.

Skinheads are known for their military-style fatigue dress, shaved heads, and white-supremacist beliefs and for unprovoked crimes of violence against minorities. At least two other similar, though non-fatal attacks have occurred since last fall, according to the *Oregonian*.

The youths were reportedly accompanied by two women who shouted encouragement and racial epithets during the incident.

The protesters started trickling in just before the noon hour, and by 12:15 more than 200 people were marching in a circle in front of City Hall, chanting "Freedom yes, racism no!" and "Gonna run those Skinheads out of town!" They carried signs reading *Love thy neighbor, From the White House to the streets - stop racism, and Fight racism and homophobia*.

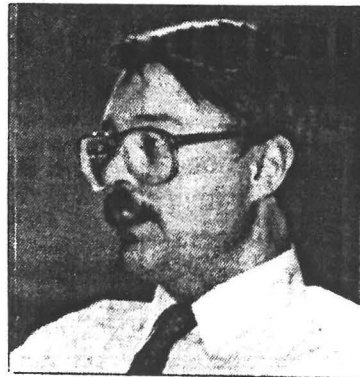
Oregon governor Neil Goldschmidt was the first speaker to address the crowd, saying that Oregon's image of equality is eroding under the torrent of crimes against its nonwhite and homosexual citizens.

See RALLY, page 4

## Benjamin resigns from PSS position

by SUSAN POLK  
of the Vanguard staff

Tom Benjamin resigned Monday from his position as general manager of Portland Student Services. Benjamin's resignation came at the end of a six-month probation period.



Tom Benjamin

ordered by the PSS board of directors.

Benjamin turned in his resignation at 5 p.m. He had been general manager of PSS for seven and one-half years. PSS, Inc. is a non-profit corporation which operates campus housing for PSU students.

The board, composed of three local businesspersons and four PSU students, met at 11 a.m. in West Hall. The board went into executive session after receiving financial reports from an audit committee and a controller's report on the financial status of the corporation.

A portion of the controller's financial statement of the corporation was a projection of PSS' finances for the remainder of the fiscal year. The projection showed a potential loss of \$2,000 to \$3,000 in the next three months. Benjamin's probation, ordered last April following his annual review by the board, was done at the request of the PSS personnel committee. None of the members of the board would comment on the nature of Benjamin's probation at the time other than to verify it.

None of the board members would comment on Benjamin's reasons for resigning, and Benjamin himself could not be reached for comment.

PSS has managed student apartment housing for the last 19 and one-half years, operating 15 apartment buildings, serving about 1400 PSU students.

## Child care may grow

by DAN GALLAGHER  
of the Vanguard staff

An emergency meeting of the Incidental Fee Committee was called Thursday to discuss funding of a child care development survey of PSU students.

The Helen Gordon Child Development Center has been steadily improving its reputation in the community, and this fall had a waiting list of 440 names of students, faculty and community citizens who want to enroll their children in the existing program. Last year's numbers were almost as high and members of the center would like to look into improvement and/or expansion of the quantity and quality of care given.

Emergency status was necessary

so the survey could be taken immediately. Had the funding waited for approval as a normal budget item, the survey could not have been attempted until after February.

The center maintains a 1-4 teacher-to-child ratio for 2- to 3-year-olds and a 1-6 teacher-to-child ratio for 3- to 6-year-olds. It also maintains a 2-1 ratio of student families-to-community families in compliance with its agreement with PSU. The university pays about half the cost of child care for students who are taking at least eight credit hours at the university and have children in the facility.

Margaret Browning, director of the Helen Gordon Child Development Center, said she sees the sur-

See CHILDREN, page 3

## Erickson haunted by PSU legacy

by MICHAEL DEANE  
of the Vanguard staff

When Mike Erickson left PSU in March of this year with a degree in Marketing and Business he might have thought he had left PSU behind. The former ASPSU president spent the summer

### NEWS ANALYSIS

going from door to door in Tigard and Tualatin introducing himself and asking the voters to put him in the Ninth District House of Representatives seat vacated by Republican Paul Phillips. Erickson's personal charm, hard work and apparent sincerity impressed enough voters that by the end of September he had garnered a 10-point lead in the polls over his Democratic rival, Tigard Mayor Tom Brian. Nov. 9, however, found Erickson defeated by Brian by over 18 percentage points.

Part of the reason for Erickson's plummet from a commanding lead to a resounding defeat lay in the fact that until October Brian had not yet begun to actively woo voters. And Democrat Michael Dukakis' win in Oregon

certainly did not help Erickson. But what pushed the ladder from under Erickson was the bulk of his own record as ASPSU president. In a house district that had not elected a Democrat since 1976, Erickson managed to lose by close to 4,000 votes. The election totals as of Nov. 17 gave Erickson 10,372 votes to Brian's 14,994.

While Erickson was haunted by controversy throughout his tenure as ASPSU president, probably the most important thing to District 9 voters was the parallel between his bid to retain his ASPSU seat and the conduct of his race against Brian.

Erickson, 25, won the ASPSU election in April of 1987 by 59 votes, but was disqualified by the ASPSU Constitution Committee for unethical campaigning. Erickson had altered a letter of introduction from Governor Neil Goldschmidt to make the letter appear to be an endorsement of his re-election campaign for student body president. He had also been chided earlier for posting banners on the Health and Physical Education building without authority, and had been taken to task for misrepresenting one of his own campaign fund-raisers as an ASPSU event.

After an article by former *Vanguard* editor Matt Buckingham appeared in the *Tualatin*

*Valley Times* detailing the allegations against Erickson and his disqualification from the 1987 ASPSU election, Erickson took a quick tumble in the polls.

The altered letter rang a bell in District 9, where Erickson similarly quoted an edited sentence of a very general letter of good will from U.S. Senator Mark Hatfield to imply an endorsement. Hatfield's office disavowed any intended or implied endorsement of Erickson, and asserted that the quote was incorrect. Erickson subsequently mailed a copy of the entire letter to District 9 voters, but by that time his misquote had become an issue in the campaign.

Erickson relied once again on the early and heavy use of signs, earning the nickname in the Brian camp of Mike "a-sign-in-every-

ditch" Erickson. Complaints were registered that he installed 32-square-foot signs in locations where signs larger than 12 square feet were prohibited, and that he failed to remove the signs after being informed of the violation.

Tom Brian contended that while the PSU stories did contribute to Erickson's loss, it was Erickson's own inexperience that was his ultimate downfall. "He needs to build a record of service in the community," Brian said. "He needs to spend a few years in community involvement, going to meetings, getting to know the people, before he can earn an elected office. Right now he just wants it too badly."

Erickson did show questionable judgment in choosing to run a law-and-order campaign against former deputy sheriff Brian. But Brian said he believes his own 10 years of service in elected office was the real deciding factor in the outcome of the vote.

Gerry Bishop, Erickson's campaign manager, contended that Erickson had the experience and the qualifications for the job. "The press," he said, "focused on petty charges and counter-charges, rather than on the issues." Bishop pointed to Erickson's support of Con-

See ERICKSON, page 3

Editor's note: Several attempts were made by the Vanguard to contact Michael Erickson by phone. No calls were returned.



## Campus Notes

### Molander plans new bid

Earl Molander, chairman of the department of management at PSU, lost a political race against Oregon Congressman Les AuCoin this election.

"I was fully aware of the danger in taking on an entrenched incumbent," Molander said of his bid.

Molander said he will run for political office again, although probably not as soon as the 1990 election. "We've done some of the analysis now, in terms of a retrospective on the campaign," Molander said. More detailed campaign plans will be made in January, Molander said, after individual precinct results are made available.

"It'll be better next time," Molander said.

AuCoin, the incumbent, refused Molander's challenge to a series of debates during the election. Molander said AuCoin would not debate him because he did not see him as a "credible" candidate. One reason AuCoin saw Molander as not being credible, Molander said, was because Molander did not have as large a campaign fund as AuCoin did.

Molander said his credibility was also questioned by AuCoin concerning his knowledge of political issues. Molander said he is as knowledgeable about the issues as AuCoin is. AuCoin, Molander said, is "so entrenched he has become indifferent to the electorate, and even arrogant."

However, the incumbent does have an overwhelming advantage in continuing to run for office, Molander said. "I think the process has all the problems people say it did, that is true," Molander said, and he is not surprised AuCoin won. What was surprising about the campaign, he said, was the number of people who would stop and tell him how unhappy they were with AuCoin as a congressman—and then say they were going to vote for him anyway.

"They don't follow their own logic through to a replacement," Molander said.

### Trade Institute leaves PSU

PSU's International Trade Institute has moved from campus to Portland's World Trade Center.

The decision to move was made over a year ago in order to continue outreach activity with the business community, according to Gil Latz, interim director of the ITI.

A field study program is available to PSU students through the ITI. The program is open to senior undergraduates in the Oregon State System of Higher Education and to those attending private universities, Latz said.

Also moving into the Trade Center was the International Trade Division, the Oregon Economic Development Department, the Oregon Department of Agriculture and the World Affairs Council, Latz said. The ITI moved into the center in the beginning of November. The moves were staggered over a one-month period.

### Anthropology papers sought

Original, high quality papers are being accepted by the Anthropology Students Association for publication in its annual journal.

Full- or part-time students may submit papers for the Anthropology Students Association publication in one of the four main fields of anthropology, which include linguistics, archaeology, cultural and physical anthropology. The journal will be published this spring. Papers do not necessarily have to be written for an anthropology class. Send submissions to Bob Burnett in the anthropology office.

## Speakers decry racism

RALLY, from page 1

homosexual citizens.

"It's time to stand up for the Oregon we believe in," Goldschmidt said. "It is an issue that every person of every race, color, and sexual preference in this state has to be concerned with. Oregon has always been a tolerant place, we have had reasons to feel good about it. Now it doesn't look so good," he said. "[Seraw's] family lost a wonderful human being last week. Let us see that their suffering is not in vain. We don't want to see our churches, our cathedrals, our synagogues being used for funerals. They should be used as places for thanking God for what we have."

Gregory L. Gudger, director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, reminded the crowd that America was built by a diversity of races, and therefore racism is hypocritical. Gudger asked participants of

the rally to re-dedicate the Thanksgiving holiday to include thanks to immigrants and Native Americans, for their contributions to our society.

"Thank the Africans—Africa is the cradle of civilization, the beginning of us all . . . thank the Native Americans for feeding the first Europeans during that first hard winter. Thank the Hispanic farm workers for the food they put on our tables, and thank the 75 percent of the Nobel prize winners that are Jewish," Gudger said. "Rededicate that day to all of those people, black, white, yellow or brown, for the strength and heart of what this community is today."

Gudger also asked that justice be done for Scraw's death. "People like [the Skinheads] rob us of dignity as a community," he said, "we urge the judicial system in our state to be thorough and swift when it is time to act."

## OSPIRG presents petition to ban styrofoam at PSU

by CAROL MAGNUSON  
of the Vanguard staff

A press conference was held Monday at PSU to present a petition to ban the use of polystyrene foam products on the PSU campus.

According to Warren Jackson, project coordinator for PSU OSPIRG's Waste Reduction program, the petition was circulated in order to establish PSU as a leader in the current city-wide effort to ban the plastic throughout Portland.

Attended by Portland city commissioner Earl Blumenauer, ASPSU president Annette Matthews, and Dr. John Hammond of the philosophy department, the press conference was intended to present the petition to PSU Food Services as well as to the public.

In his introduction, Jackson said that during a prior meeting, Food Services Director Larry Labore asked the OSPIRG group to provide concrete proof of the campus community's intention regarding a campus-wide ban. "Food Services asked for a demonstration of student support, so we went out and got 1,000 signatures," he said.

In spite of the claim made by many plastics manufacturers that most existing alternatives may be equally harmful to the environment, Blumenauer said, "There are existing, viable alternatives to styrofoam which are not harmful to the environment." Labore, did not attend the press conference because of "a previous appointment."

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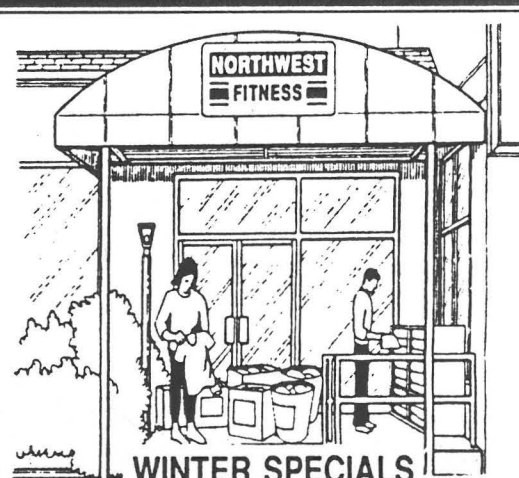
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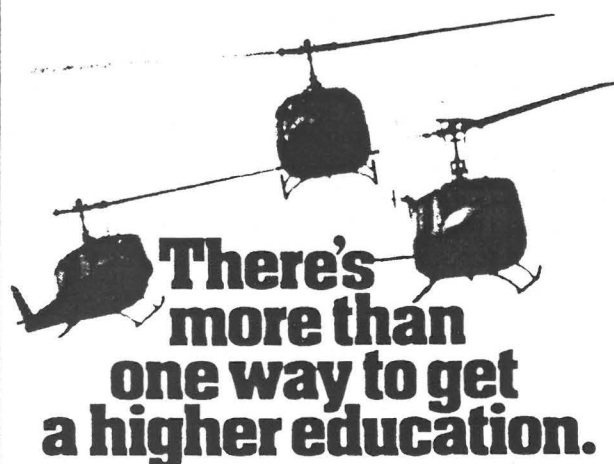
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## Food Bank Supply Crisis

See Page 13



## Happy Thanksgiving

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Staff and Management

Vol. 14 No. 3, November 23, 1988

"NO OTHER CAN SPEAK FOR US"

259



BEFORE THE BRIGHT  
LIGHTS GO ON — THE  
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Courthouse Square will be  
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caroling. Mayor Bud  
Craig and a child selected  
by KGW Radio will pull  
the tree-lighting switch.

## Landlord Sued Over Drug Sales at NE Apartments

Using what may be a new tool in the fight against crack houses, a Northeast couple has sued the owner of an apartment building which they allege has been the scene of drug selling and prostitution.

In a suit filed around Nov. 3 in Multnomah County Circuit Court, the couple charges that criminal actions in a six-unit apartment building near NE Sumner and Williams has led to a \$40,000 drop in the value of their nearby home. They are suing owner Clarence Ebert under a state racketeering statute that allows people to legally claim three times the amount of losses caused by organized crime activities. They are also asking that Ebert pay the amount of any rents he collected from drug dealers into a trust that would be devoted to helping Northeast youth.

*"Our main purpose is to send a message to landlords."*

Ebert's attorney, Ted Heap, responded that Ebert "never intentionally rented to anybody who engaged in drugs or prostitution." The attorney, who said he has known Ebert 15 years, said the landlord has even suffered retaliation for evicting drug dealers from the complex once he found out what they were doing. That came in the form of a fire which damaged two units at the building, Heap said.

The couple that filed the suit, Angela Sherbo and Bob Huggins, are themselves lawyers. Sherbo said they were inspired by the city's neighborhood crime prevention manager, Ed Blackburn, when about 18 months ago he asked a group of volunteer lawyers to come up with a way private citizens could sue drug house landlords.

Sherbo said the lawsuit against Ebert is the first of its kind, to her knowledge. She said she hopes it will set a precedent for future, similar lawsuits.

A lawsuit "is something that people can do themselves," Sherbo commented.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Further Violence Feared:

# Skinheads Charged in Seraw Killing While Community Protests Continue

By Patrick Mazza

**W**HILE A BROAD COMMUNITY outpouring continued against the apparently racially motivated killing of Muguleta Seraw, three skinheads were in custody in connection with the Nov. 13 murder.

Arraigned in the Multnomah County Courthouse Tuesday on charges of murder were Kenneth M. Mieske, 23, also known as "Ken Death," and Kyle H. Brewster, 19. A third skinhead, Steven R. Strasser, 20, was charged with second-degree assault in the case.

The three are members of East Side White Pride, a skinhead gang believed to have ties with the Aryan Youth Movement, a racist right wing group which is organizing young people nationwide. Local police also arrested the Aryan Youth Movement's vice president, David Mazzella, who recently moved to Portland to begin recruiting among local youth. Mazzella is being held on a battery charge from Salinas, Calif., where he was also engaged in recruiting activities.

East Side White Pride is believed to have at least 30

*"This death shouldn't go in vain," Goldschmidt said.*

members, and is centered in the Southeast Portland area where Seraw was killed. *The Skanner* sources say the group is organized along cell-group lines and has regular meetings. Sources held out little hope group members will cease from violent activities, and add that members are angry and resentful over the arrests of their companions.

Seraw was beaten to death with baseball bats outside

his Southeast Portland apartment, while two of his companions were injured. That event resulted in a week of denunciations of skinhead violence which culminated in a Nov. 18 rally outside Portland City Hall attended by 350 people, including Gov. Neil Goldschmidt.

"This death shouldn't go in vain," Goldschmidt said as he called on Oregonians to show this state's welcome sign is not out for racist groups.

People at the demonstration noted the broad mix of people present.

"This is the most diverse group," Oregon Affirmative Action Director Kathleen Saadat said. "I see people I haven't seen in 15 years." Saadat said "more recognition of a common base" and common interests exists now.

"A broader cross section of the city is here at this demonstration than any I've been to," said David Linder, father of Ben Linder, the Portlander who was slain in Nicaragua by Contras. The presence of so many different kinds of people protesting Seraw's death "speaks of people's identity with what happened to that poor guy."

Among the demonstrators was a group of punks which included Jerry A, leader of "Poison Idea," a Portland punk band that ceased public performances for some months in 1985-86 in protest against skinhead violence. He said the band may do that again, and is thinking of moving to another part of the country to get away from the violence.

"It's getting really bad here," he said.

The band leader noted that skinhead violence has been going on for some time in Portland.

"They've been doing this forever," he said. "People have finally realized it."

*Continued on Page 3*

## PSU, Jackson State Face Off in Playoff Here

The Portland State University football team, battling through NCAA Division 2 playoffs, Saturday faces a Jackson State team from Mississippi that last week set a Division 2 playoff record for yards gained as it slaughtered West Chester University of Pennsylvania.

The game gets underway 1 p.m. at Portland Civic Stadium. PSU Sports Information Director Larry Sellars said PSU hopes to hold off Jackson State and win on its balanced offense. But, said Sellars, the team will have to slow down Jackson State's powerful "wishbone offense," in which a wedge of backs attempts to pierce opposition defenses. That offense contributed to a record \$66-yard gain and Jackson State's 63-24 victory over West Chester.

Eight teams survived last weekend's round of playoffs. Portland State kept its playoff slot by taking down Bowie State 34-17. Going into last weekend, PSU was ranked fourth in Division 2, which Jackson State held seventh-place ranking.



## Skinheads Charged... Continued from Page 1

Other groups well represented at the rally were gays and lesbians, sparked to action not just by the Seraw killing, but also by the election victory of Ballot Measure 8. That measure repealed Goldschmidt's executive order banning discrimination based on sexual preference within state government.

"The passage last week of Ballot Measure 8 and the murder last Sunday of Muguleta Seraw are related," said gay community spokesperson Carl Goodman. "There is a movement in this country to quash diversity. If we don't fight back, we will be killed."

**"There is a movement in this country to quash diversity."**

Goodman's statement set off loud, spontaneous chants of "Fight Back! Fight Back!" from the crowd.

Portland State University's Black Studies chair, Darrell Millner, offered a similar thought from a Black perspective when he quoted a statement by Frederick Douglass about the days of slavery: "Those slaves were whipped most who resisted least."

Robert Lamb Jr., regional director of the U.S. Justice Department's Community Relations Service, also attending the rally, told *The Skanner* the Seraw killing and skinhead violence in Portland represent a major priority for his agency. He said he was visiting Portland to assess how the Community Relations Service could aid citizens in dealing with the threat.

At the same time the Portland rally was happening, about 200 people gathered in Seattle to protest the killing and skinhead violence. Oscar Eason of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment told the crowd, "It is frightening when these young men known to us as Nazi skinheads, who four years ago were known only for their dress style and music, have become integrated with white supremacy and with an attitude of racism."

Engedaw Berhanu, Seraw's uncle, took some solace at the support shown to him and the Ethiopian community following the death. He told the Portland rally that he would leave the next day to return to his home in California and write letters to friends and family in Ethiopia.

"I am going to write about more than the killing," Berhanu said. "I am going to write about this rally, and about all the people who came to comfort me."

## Landlord Sued... Continued from Page 1

"Our main purpose is to send a message to landlords," she said. The message is that allowing drug dealing and prostitution on a property "is going to be expensive because the community is not going to put up with it."

Sherbo said she and Huggins did not go ahead with their lawsuit until "we tried everything else," Sherbo said. That included complaints to police and neighborhood meetings.

"We were really disappointed in the response we got," she commented.

Sherbo said the couple began complaining to Ebert about drug dealing and prostitution at the apartment complex in April 1987. But those activities continued, with the past two months being particularly bad, she added.

Yet both sides agree that no drug dealing is currently taking place on the property. Two arrests for cocaine dealing occurred last month, Sherbo said.

"They started stepping up their response in October," she commented. "They responded because we're a squeaky wheel."

That came after a September letter to Ebert in which the couple threatened a lawsuit, Sherbo noted.

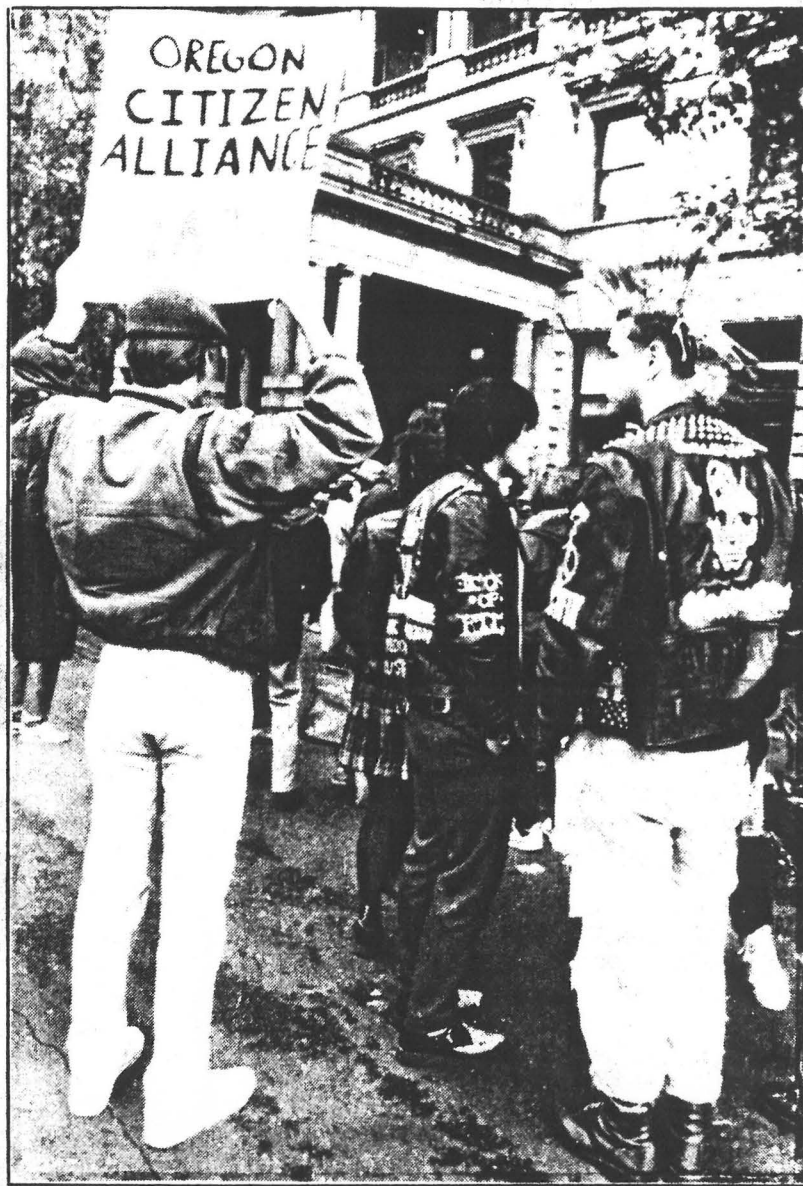
Heap said that Ebert was dealing with problems at the complex in a number of ways. Among them were hiring a new property management firm that could give the complex closer supervision. Ebert himself has been away from Portland much of the year, Heap noted.

The landlord and property managers had agreed with a neighborhood committee on a plan to keep drug dealing and prostitution out of the building, Heap said. So the lawsuit came as a surprise, he noted.

"My reaction is 'why this lawsuit?'" the attorney commented. "The problems were getting solved."

"I don't know what else (Ebert) can do," Heap said.

**RALLY AGAINST RACIAL TERRORISM** — Around 350 people, including Gov. Neil Goldschmidt, gathered outside Portland City Hall last Friday to denounce the beating death of Muguleta Seraw, Nov. 13, allegedly at the hands of skinheads. The diverse crowd included protesters against the Oregon Citizen Alliance. The OCA sponsored the recently-passed Measure 8 which rescinded the governor's ban on discrimination in state government on the basis of sexual preference. Also at the rally were self-proclaimed "punks," there to show their opposition to skinhead violence.



## Outrage Voiced Over Racist Speaker

OGDEN, Utah (AP) — A recent lecture given to Ogden police by a white supremacist has stirred protests from representatives of Ogden's Jewish community and others opposed to racial hate doctrines.

However, Ogden Police Chief Joe Ritchie said Nov. 18 that critics don't understand that his intent in allowing Richard Masker of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, to address his officers last week was to help them better understand why white supremacists think the way they do.

"The paramount reason was to protect our community and every member of it," Ritchie said. "And I feel that was an excellent use of monies that we have budgeted for police training."

Ritchie blamed news reports for misinterpreting what he had said earlier about the training session.

Noni Gilbert, a spokeswoman for aryanWatch, said she was "very, very disheartened" by the incident, which she saw as giving credence to the white supremacist movement.

A Jewish leader, Gil Pacheco, said the coincidence of the lectures last week and the 50th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the violent anti-Jewish demonstrations in Germany in 1938, was frightening.

"We're shocked and offended," said Gilbert, one of the organizers of aryanWatch. "We thought we had a good working relationship with Ritchie. ... but we only heard about this through the media. We were not contacted, we were not informed."

Gilbert also objected "strenuously to the use of public money not only to pay the guy, but for the security around it."

Masker was paid \$700 for the lecture.

Pacheco, another organizer of aryanWatch and a trustee of Congregation Brith Sholem in Ogden, said the situation "shocked and dismayed" people in Ogden's Jewish community.

"As far as I being a Jew, this bothers me on the point of he's talking to a Nazi about Nazi techniques. Does this man (Ritchie) intend to use these techniques in the police force on the population in the area?" Pacheco asked.

"More disturbing, why the coincidence of the sessions of Nov. 8 and 9 and the anniversary of Kristallnacht? What does this man intend to do? Does he intend to have crematoriums here? Does he intend to have pogroms here?"

Ritchie countered that he has worked for the past year to establish a good intelligence network to follow the white supremacist movement.

"The training last week was to underline to our people that the white supremacist movement is extremely dangerous" and must be combated at all times, the chief said.

"If you're going to win the war, you've got to know the enemy," Ritchie said. "And we know for sure now who our enemy is."

## Curbing of Supremacist Group Urged

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Failure to stop a white supremacist group from spreading hate messages could have disastrous consequences for Canada, says a Winnipeg lawyer.

"We cannot wait until Terry Long (Canadian leader of the U.S.-based Aryan Nations) has a mass following, until there are Aryan Nation demonstrations in the street," David Matas told a federal human rights tribunal Nov. 18.

"If we wait until then, it will be too late."

The tribunal is investigating complaints that the Church of Jesus Christ Christian (Aryan Nations), based in Hayden Lake, Idaho, spread hate against Jews and non-whites through taped telephone

messages in 1987 and 1988. Its public hearings concluded Friday.

Long, based in Caroline, a small community in central Alberta, has boycotted the hearings.

Matas, lawyer for the League of Human Rights B'nai B'rith Canada, said the taped messages are "even more vicious" than Nazi propaganda because they attempt to deny Jewish people their identity and history.

He said it would be a mistake to ignore the white supremacist group.

"They are the people we should take the most seriously of all," he said.





Bobbie Dore Foster, Editor

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## Good Start on Stopping Racist Gangs

The arrest of three skinheads in connection with the beating death of Mulugeta Seraw, as well as the continuing chorus of calls for action to stop skinhead violence are encouraging signs that this city is finally responding to the growth of racist violence here. The Portland police and other law enforcement officials who participated in the investigation are especially to be commended for bringing speedy results.

Now is time for the court system to speedily try those accused in the case. If they are found guilty, they should be sentenced in a way that makes an example, a way that shows violent bigotry will not be tolerated here.

We think it's about time such a statement is made. We well remember the day three years ago when we heard that the brother of one of our staff people had just been stabbed to death in a racially motivated killing on Union Ave. Such violence must be stopped now, and stopped dead cold.

The local criminal justice system must now focus on repulsing racist gangs. The more we learn about these groups, the more it is clear to us that their growth is one of the most dangerous developments in the life of our city.

A few years ago, it might have been easy to write off fascist skinheads as "just a bunch of punks." No more. They are taking on all the marks of an organized political group, and one dedicated to the principle of white supremacy. They have cell groups, regular meetings, a recruiting strategy and a nationwide network linked to traditional far right organizations. They are actively organizing in schools and among young people on the street. They are driven by a rage that makes them want to hurt people. They have hurt many, and will hurt many more if they are not stopped.

Stopping racist gangs will require a strong emphasis on investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. This could include actions such as:

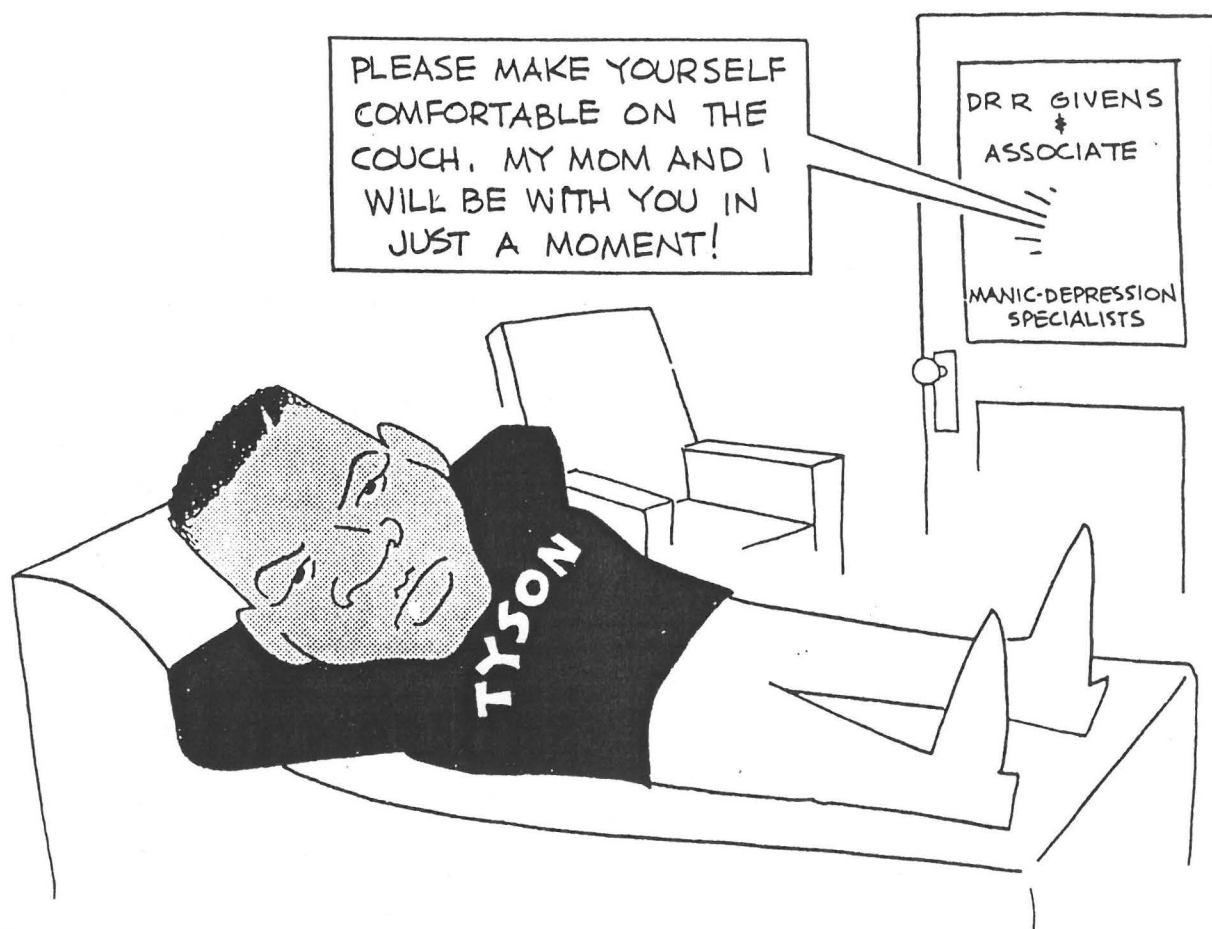
- Restoring the in-house investigative staff at the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

- A direction by the City Council to the Police Bureau that top priority is to be placed on investigating hate crimes.

- Prosecuting members of racist gangs in federal court in the same way Black gang members are currently prosecuted.

- Stiffening state penalties for racially-motivated crimes much as Idaho has done.

The community and criminal justice system must act to make clear that we cannot tolerate racist violence. Racists must be made to realize this city and state represent a homeland for diversity, and that they would do well to recognize their sickness and get over it.



## Tomorrow's Jobs: Trends Examined

By U.S. Rep. Augustus Hawkins

It is somewhat difficult to predict what skills will be in demand in the next decade for young people in pursuit of a career job. Job forecasting isn't a perfect science, and sudden recessions can throw even the most optimistic job scenario's out of the window. But a publication issued by the U.S. Department of labor can help give you an idea about job trends in the years ahead.

Entitled *Tomorrow's Jobs*, the publication considers population growth and change, new technologies, and current availability of certain skills, to predict where job opportunities will be in the next 10 to 15 years.

Changes in the population and work force have an impact on employment. Due to the current low birth rate and the aging of the baby boom generation, the fastest growing segments of the population are the middle-aged and elderly. This population will eat more outside the home, purchase more insurance, and require a great deal more health care as they get older. This opens up a number of job possibilities in these areas.

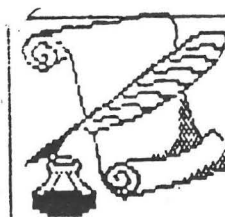
The number of workers between 16 and 24 years of age will decline into the mid-90's, so jobs traditionally held by this age group should be more plentiful. As people retire earlier, the number of older workers will also decline. By the year 2000, 3 out of 4 workers will be between 25 and 54 years of age. This high proportion of "prime working age" workers will make competition tough for this age group even if job fields expand. To make our work force competitive we must be prepared to educate and train them effectively.

To help our nation invest in the future, I recently introduced legislation to strengthen anti-job discrimination by federal contractors and to create an \$850 million per year education improvement fund to help train the nation's workforce for the next century. In the very near future, women and minorities will comprise a majority of the entry level workforce. When this day arrives, we will be faced with a severe crisis unless we work today to provide proper education and job training for young people.

It is intended that the education fund, financed by an assessment levied against all federal contractors, (at

one half of one percent of the contract amount) would be used to prepare women and minorities for careers in fields they have been previously excluded from, such as engineering and chemistry. It will also address the shortage of minority teachers.

As *Tomorrow's Jobs* points out, the fastest growing occupations will be the ones that require more education. We will employ 46 percent more natural, computer and math scientists than we do now. Engineers, accountants, lawyers, nurses, managers, and technicians will also be in great demand. We must begin the task of preparing our work force now, so we can respond to the challenges of "tomorrow's jobs."



## Letters..

### Thanks Extended

To the Editor:

On behalf of Jubilee Productions we would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to your professional staff for their outstanding work helping us prepare the Oct. 22 auditions for our new review called, "The Evolution of Jubilee Music." We thought *The Skanner* would like to know that the *Willamette Week*, and the *Downtowner* were not nearly as effective as *The Skanner*. Your paper made our auditions an overwhelming success. We are indeed looking forward to continuing to do business with you, and make it a point to let other businesses know about your outstanding paper.

Chance Deshiel





# PORTLAND OBSERVER

Volume XVIII, Number 52

The Eyes and Ears of the community

November 24 1988

## Introducing:



Bishop and Mrs. Hopkins

Rev. John and Vivian  
Parker

SALUTING

## Oregonians Must Take Immediate Action To Combat Racism

by Nyewusi Askari  
Editor - Portland Observer

**T**hroughout Oregon's African-American communities, the beating death of Mulugeta Seraw has ignited anger, caution, meeting after meeting, rallies against racism and a new awareness of how deep and widespread racism is in the City of Portland and the State of Oregon.

It is more than tragic that a man had to be beaten to death before most Oregonians realized that racism is not only evil but deadly—deadly to the positive growth and development of race relations; deadly to the cultural, social, economic and political development of Oregon; deadly to the sanity and well-being of all children—deadly period.

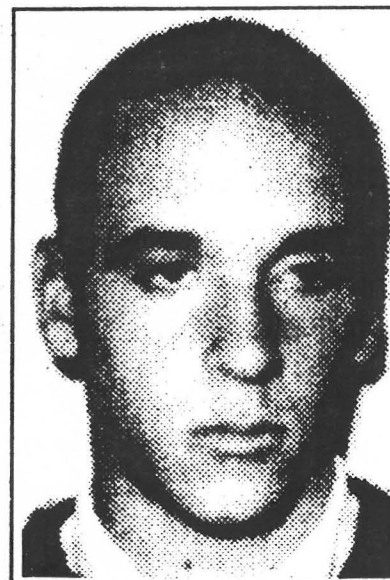
The fact that three white youths have been arrested for Mulugeta's murder has brought little comfort to Black Oregonians. Outside of the FBI and Portland Police, little

throughout the world. They don't care about Jews. They don't care about Blacks. They don't care about people of color. They don't care about whites who believe in the concept of One Nation under God. They only care about themselves.

If Oregon is serious about combating racism within its borders, it must start to do so immediately. Lawmakers, on both the state and local level, should be encouraged to enact strong laws which will protect Oregonians from the deadly fangs of racism. Because of the present racial climate, most Black Oregonians feel unsafe traveling outside of their own communities. They don't feel protected.

Black Oregonians must be given credit for their handling of Mr. Seraw's murder. Instead of seeking to find the killers of Mulugeta, Rambo style, they came together, with their neighbors, to seek a collective solution. They allowed law enforcement to do its

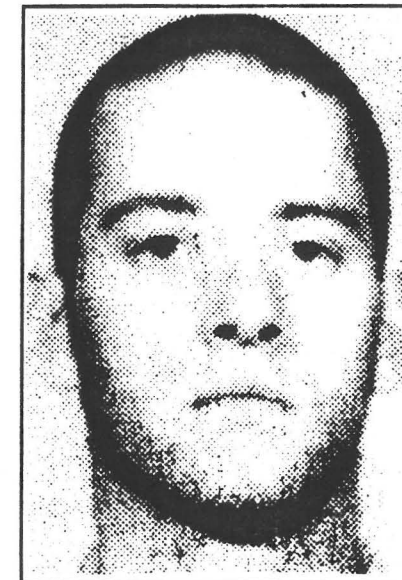
## The Accused



Brewster



Mieske



Strasser

### Summary Of Reported Racially-Motivated Incidents 87-88

#### Metropolitan Human Relations Commission

**08/87**

The Vietnamese Seventh Day Adventist Church in Portland was spray-painted with racist graffiti which disparaged Asians and Blacks.

**11/11/87**

A group of youths believed to be Skinheads terrorized a black woman near the Lloyd Cinemas complex, shouting racial epithets at her, spitting on her car and eventually throwing a chain through her car window. Pieces of the flying glass lodged in her cornea and she required treatment at a hospital emergency room. No arrests were made for that incident.

school bus in the morning when she confronted a white female, who was reported to have hit her children. The white female started yelling, "I DIDN'T HIT YOUR CHILDREN .....ONLY SHOVED THEM". "YOU CAN CALL THE POLICE ALL YOU WANT TO;

**04/27/88**

A large rock that had a swastika and "DIE JEW" painted on it was thrown through a window of Jewish man's home.

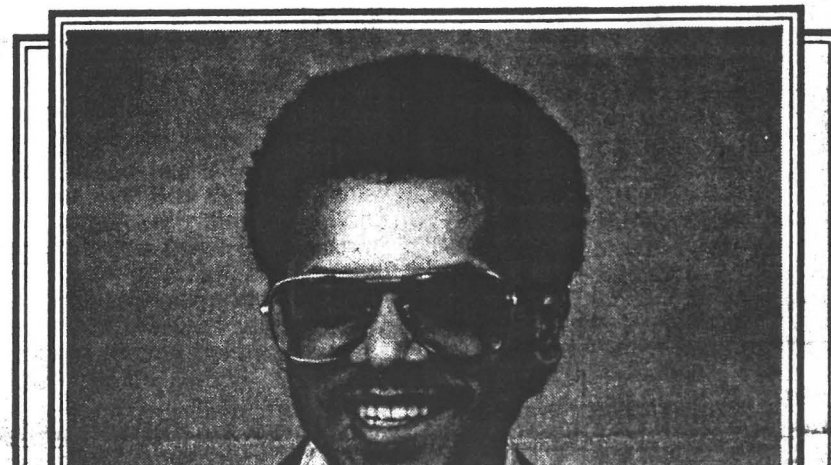
**05/02/88**

Racist literature was found in a phone booth located in downtown Portland. The perpetrator was

ser. Suspects gone on police arrival.

**06/01/88**

An Asian man pulled up next to a car containing two white males who shouted racial epithets. The passenger in the suspect car pulled out a baton and started beating the victim's car. A Police officer went after the assailants. No arrest was made. Later on, the victim called 911 and the police officer/operator asked about damages. The victim said there was no damage to the car. The police officer responded, "IF THEY DIDN'T DAMAGE YOUR CAR, THERE'S NO LAW







Ms. Cora Smith

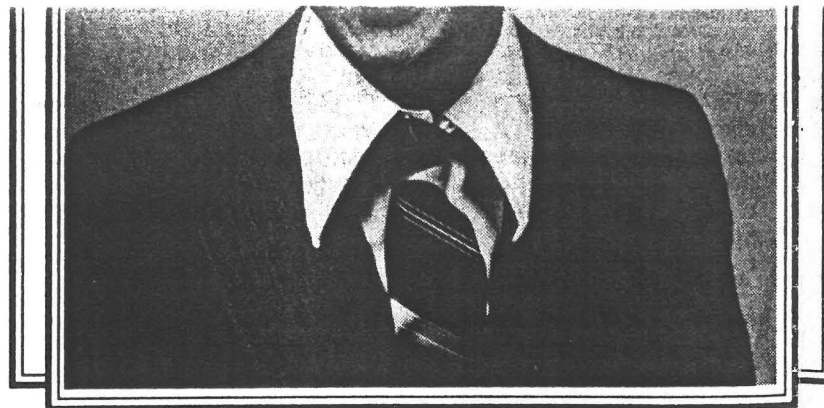
## REMEMBERING



Rev. John Garlington

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Observer has moved into the computer age. Recently, the newspaper purchased a Packard Bell Computer/NEC SilentWriter LC 890 Postscript Page Printer. As a result, the paper is in transition while the computer bugs are being worked out. Once that has happened, the entire newspaper will be formatted on the computer on a weekly basis. Until then, readers will notice changes, and at times, the absence of regular columns, announcements, etc. We ask your patience. We will be back on course within two or three weeks.



## MULUGETA SERAW

is known about the evidence that was gathered leading to the arrest. Less is known of how a jury or judge will view it. At present, Black Oregonians can only wonder what the evidence will reveal, thus, a large majority are withholding judgment on the guilt or innocence of the accused.

And rightly so, however, the fact remains—Mulugeta Seraw was beaten to death because of the color of his skin. His death reveals how urgent it is for Oregonians to confront racism on all fronts—in the schools, in the workplace, in Arts & Entertainment, in the church, in our homes, in our language, everywhere ...

## COMMENTARY

Although most Oregonians were caught off guard by Seraw's death, it didn't take long for them to organize around a common cause: to eliminate racism from Oregon. It is evident that Mulugeta's murder touched the hearts of all who are committed to creating a Nation where color doesn't decide whether a man, woman or child lives or dies. Now, it will be interesting to see if those same persons will follow through with their commitment.

It is important that they do. The racists, declared and un-declared, have made their intentions known

job. However, the question remains: If racism is not confronted and confronted soon, how long will cool heads prevail?

Mulugeta's murder has been very revealing. It has shown that most Portland communities can work together on this problem and do it very successfully. It has shown that law enforcement can seek out and apprehend those who disregard the lives of others. Even so, it remains to be seen if these actions will be symbolic of future actions on behalf of neighborhoods and law enforcement.

In the meantime, Black Oregonians must enact rules, policies and strategies that are designed to ensure the safety of the Black family, the Black woman, the Black elderly, the Black child and the Black male. In this present climate of racial hatred, everyone is a target. It makes no difference if you wear a three piece suit or jeans or tennis shoes. As long as you are Black, you are a target for death. That's how serious this situation is.

Our children must be encouraged to stay off the streets until a safer climate is created. We must change our behavior. We must enact a system where Black Oregonians are not easily targeted and victimized.

The time is NOW!



Locations Where Skinhead Groups Have Been Operating:

dent.

01/26/88

Residents in Gresham, Oregon found a publication denouncing "Negro-White Marriages" in their newspaper boxes. The publication, printed by the Lord's Covenant Church of Phoenix, Arizona, was found in the distribution of a local food magazine.

01/30/88

Vandals spray painted anti-Israeli graffiti on the exterior to two synagogues. The slogans were: RECOGNIZE THE PLO; YOU HAVE BLOOD ON YOUR HANDS; JEW TRIUMPH = ARAB DEATH.

03/10/88

Three Skinheads were arrested for attacking an Asian-American male coming out of a downtown restaurant with his family. The Skinheads were reported as saying "GO BACK TO HONG KONG" and "GET OUT OF OUR COUNTRY". They called his caucasian wife a TRAITOR and called their two year-old daughter a "FUCKING SLANT". During the assault, the American-Asian male was struck in the face and kicked in the leg, head and stomach with heavy combat boots.

03/17/88

Active Skinhead recruitment reported at Fernwood Middle School and Grant High School. Skinheads promise that they will protect white recruits from the minorities.

04/03/88

A black male found his car vandalized. The windows were smashed and a magic marker was used to write "KILL THE JEWS", "COONS" and several Nazi swastikas on the car.

04/19/88

A black female stated that as she was seeing her children onto the

Portland. The anonymous author claims to spread the truth by interpreting biblical scripture to support race separation, white race preservation, and to decry interracial marriage.

05/27/88

Hate mail was received by Commissioner Lindberg. The writer expressed his anger against Lindberg's contribution to the Black United Front Saturday School.

05/29/88

Two Skinheads were approached by two black males who stated they were "Bloods". The black males asked if they were "Skins" and then assaulted them. One victim was examined at Kai-

AGAINST BEING RUDE".

06/09/88

A white female was arrested for writing Skinhead graffiti on brick enclosure.

06/17/88

While standing at a bus stop in North Portland, two black seventeen (17) year-old males were approached by three white males wearing Skinhead-like attire (army boots, shaved heads). The three white males chanted racial epithets and assaulted the two black males. The black males fought back and were able to get away. Upon notifying their parents about the incident, one victim's parent

(Continued to Page 3)

## SENIOR OF THE WEEK



Mr. Wiley Carter, Sr.

Mr. Wiley Grant Carter, Sr. who will celebrate his 75th birthday on December 10, 1988 was born in Sheplow, Mississippi in 1913. He moved to Portland in 1942 to work in the shipyards. He met and married Rosa Ann King in 1948 and together they raised eight lovely children before Rosa's death in 1986.

Retired since 1980, Wiley Carter, Sr. spends a lot of time tending his garden and traveling to visit his children and relatives who live

A senior resident of Gantenbein Avenue (G Street) for nearly 40 years, Wiley Carter, Sr. has been an inspiration to everyone in his neighborhood. He is always willing to give a helping hand to a person in need, or some sound advice.

Mr. Carter says "live right and don't over indulge in food, drink or use drugs, and treat people as you would have them treat you" these are they keys to longevity.

On December 10, 1988 friends and family of Wiley Carter, Sr. will gather to salute this special individual on his 75th birthday.



# COMMUNITY FORUM

## Summary Of Reported Racially-Motivated Incidents 87-88

Continued from Page 1

went looking for the white males who had left the scene of the assault.

**06/17/88**

A white male and white female, who identified themselves as Skinheads, assaulted two nineteen year old females: a female of Filipino, Mexican and European descent and her companion, a white female. The suspect approached the victims for a ride. The victims said yes. The female Skinhead then said that she was a Skinhead and she did not believe in interracial marriage. The addition, the mixed race victim received teeth marks on her right cheek.

**06/21/88**

Approximately twenty white youths blocked the entrances and exits of an apartment complex in North Portland which is occupied by several SE Asians families. The youths began to go door to door, kicking the doors and yelling racial epithets. One resident called 911. It took the Portland Police approximately thirty minutes to respond. One police car arrived with one officer, who stayed in the car, observed the activity for five minutes, then left. The harassment continued. One resident asked the youths to leave. Upon refusal,

the resident fired two rounds in the air with a handgun and shut his door. After he fired the shots the harassers left the premises and went across the street. At this point, a white neighbor shot rifle rounds in the air, and told the harassers to leave. Upon leaving they yelled, "WE WILL BE BACK".

Upon leaving the area they yelled, "We will be back". They came back with a gas can and poured gasoline around the apartment complex and set the gasoline on fire. When the fire started the residents called 911 and the Operator said that it was the Fire Department not the Police, who was needed. At this point several refugees got guns and fired rounds in the air. The harassers dispensed. The Portland Police did come, much later, after the harassers had left the complex. The gas can was recovered. No damage to persons or property were reported.

**06/25/88**

A white male was approached by several black males. They asked if he was "messing with the Homeboys". They then pushed him and subsequently assaulted him.

**07/04/88**

A black male was punched in the face by a white male in Waterfront Park. The black male states the assault was unprovoked. The suspect was chased by a group of blacks and the incidents was subsequently controlled by the police.

**07/07/88**

Officer responded to a strong arm robbery call. An elderly Chinese male was assaulted and robbed of \$5.00 by two unarmed white male suspects described as "Skinheads".

**07/17/88**

Officers were dispatched to a disturbance involving a large crowd of Skinheads shouting racial slurs at black male. It appeared that the whites (two specifically) were instigating a racial incident with the black male.

**07/23/88**

A fight ensued at One Main Place involving Vietnamese and whites. One white received a gash to the forehead necessitating stitches.

**07/27/88**

Officer reported information from a part-time park employee. A Vietnamese gang is trying to take over the park. One of the gang members brandished a handgun in the waistbands of his trousers.

**07/30/88**

Altercation between two white males and two black males subjects. The two white males were stabbed by two black males.

**08/13/88**

Shots exchanged between a white male and black male after the white male yelled something about "BLOODS" at the black male on the bicycle.

**08/16/88**

Assault and vandalism to vehicle. Two white males and two white females were assaulted and their vehicles was vandalized by five black males who were all wearing blue and had heads shaven. The victims stated that the suspects appeared to be gang members and were between 14 and 19 years.



SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

"We [American women] will no longer be denied our rights as human beings, equal in all respect to males."



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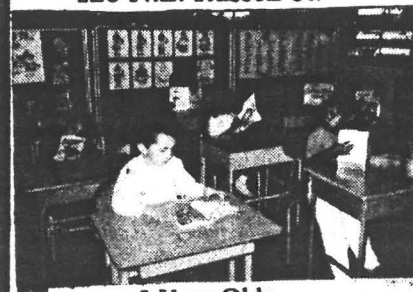
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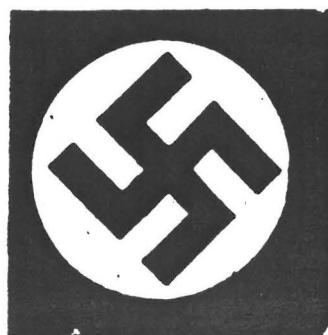


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health care costs and possible wage increases later in the fiscal year.

The bad budget news was particularly discouraging to the City Council because it comes when the local

cussion of budgetary issues when the City Council meets for a goal setting session next month.

One casualty of the budget cut-backs may be a program to renovate

because of the city's tight money situation. Budget manager Tim Grewe said the bureau should look for the money within its budget.

The council will vote on that issue later this month.

11/30/88

## Skinheads indicted in beating

By DAVID AUSTIN

of The Oregonian staff

Three Portland men described as Skinheads were indicted Tuesday on charges of murder, assault and intimidation in connection with the Nov. 13 beating death of a black man in Southeast Portland.

A Multnomah County grand jury indicted Kyle Hayden Brewster, 19, Kenneth Murray Mieske, 23, and Steven Rodney Strasser, 20, all of Southeast Portland, on charges of murder in the death of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian national.

The defendants also were charged with one count each of first- and second-degree assault, and three counts each of intimidation, said Deputy District Attorney Norman W. Frink Jr., who is handling the case.

Seraw, 28, and two friends — Tila-hule Antneh, 31, and Wondwosen Tesfaye, 24 — were attacked outside Seraw's apartment. Witnesses said Seraw was beaten with a baseball bat and kicked about the head.

Police said the motive was thought to be the victim's race, prompting community outrage and several rallies against racism.

The three defendants have been described by the district attorney as members of East Side White Pride, the largest Skinhead group in Oregon. Skinheads have been linked with neo-Nazi groups, such as the Aryan Youth Movement, and with the Ku Klux Klan.

Brewster and Mieske originally were held on accusations of murder, while Strasser had been accused of second-degree assault, Frink said. Frink declined to discuss the change in the charges against Strasser.

The three defendants are tentatively scheduled to be arraigned at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday in Multnomah County Circuit Court, Frink said. Brewster, Mieske and Strasser are being held without bail in the Justice Center jail.

Strasser's bail had been set at \$100,000 before the indictments were handed up.



The Oregonian/ROSS HAMILTON

A man who declined to give police his name but who they identified as a resident of 815 N.E. Roselawn St. is evicted Tuesday as city workers board up the house, which authorities have identified as a drug house.

## Police close crack house

A Northeast Roselawn Street residence identified as a crack house supplied by gang members was closed by police Tuesday for not meeting a number of city health codes.

Police discovered the code violations two weeks ago during a drug raid at the house at 815 N.E. Roselawn St., said Detective David W. Simpson, spokesman for the Portland Police Bureau. At the time, a woman customer was arrested for possession of a small amount of crack.

Ownership of the house is being disputed in court, but Simpson said two of the four persons listed as owners supported the city's efforts to close the two-story, wood-frame house. The other two persons did not respond to the city's closure notification, he said.

Because of the ownership dispute, Simpson said closing it for code vio-

lations was easier than closing it under the city's drug-house ordinance.

Simpson said the house had no plumbing, improper heating and drainage, broken windows and exposed wiring.

Sgt. Mike Bell of the city's Gang Enforcement Team said police surveillance had found that occupants of the house sold crack cocaine "24 hours a day" and used the drug themselves. He said the crack was supplied by street gang members, but police declined to identify which gang.

Police estimate there are 75 to 100 crack houses in Portland and that more than half are gang-controlled.

Three persons were evicted from the house Tuesday, when members of the Gang Enforcement Team and the Oregon State Police Youth Gang Strike Force arrived to serve the civil order. None of the occupants was arrested.



## LESSONS FROM MULUGETA SERAW'S DEATH

# Daily indignities, left unchecked, can escalate to brutal beatings

By GREGORY L. GUDGER

I established a friendship on the bus to work with a blond child of about two years of age, her mother seated beside her. She stood in her seat and we gestured playfully to one another until her mother ended our game.

"My daughter has the mistaken belief that her father is a black man," the mother said. Taken aback, I responded clumsily, "She could have done worse." The mother made the child sit, and whispered something to her.

In a moment, the little girl was standing in her seat once again, repeating something to me that I couldn't quite hear initially. Then I realized that the little girl, with mechanical repetition, was calling me a "nigger."

By their faces, I knew others on that bus heard what she was saying. They said nothing. I silenced the little girl the next time she began to repeat the words by a sharp retort, "No!"

She was shocked; her mouth and eyes were wide open. Her face collapsed into a picture of internal sorrow; a kind of sorrow only a small child can display when she realizes that her behavior, though innocent, was wrong.

The little girl's mother robbed her of a pleasant experience: a direct, unpoluted contact with humanity. In its place, she gave her child her own social illness; the same sickness that, unchecked, consumed Mulugeta Seraw less than one month later.

The beating death of the young Ethiopian was but the jagged, exposed tip of the iceberg, the bulk of which is ignored as long as it remains submerged. But it is the non-violent acts — like the unfettered passage of a racist tradition on to a child — that are the most insidious, and allow for an environment in which racial violence can thrive. To silently allow the less dramatic occurrences to continue only enhances the likelihood of violent acts.

Recently published statistics on racially motivated violence in Multnomah County expose only a small part of the ugly truth about the status of race relations. Nine of the 17 acts of racial violence reported to the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission in the last 12 months were assaults. However, the commission recorded nearly 200 complaints of non-violent discrimination during fiscal year 1987-1988, the largest category of which was race discrimination.

Those figures probably pale, in turn, to the number of complaints filed with the state Civil Rights Division (Portland investigators are said to carry a caseload averaging 400 cases at any given time), affirmative action offices and community based organizations — and to events that go unreported.

Conversations among blacks and other people of color include countless tales of unreported or unreportable occurrences; 6th U.S. Circuit Court Judge Damon Keith calls them "daily indignities" suffered at the hands of some whites as a matter of course.

Discussions of such events with some of the most well-meaning whites are often met

*Gregory L. Gudger is executive director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission, but wrote this article in his private capacity as a Portland resident.*

with disbelief, disdain and/or disassociation.

The civil rights struggle is not without its white champions who are willing to speak out against injustice. The historical, the temporarily strained, alliance between blacks and Jews changed the social consciousness of America during the height of the civil rights movement in the middle decades of this century. Thousands of white college students and others also responded to the clarion call of the period.

The '60s have passed but, albeit in less dramatic fashion, the struggle goes on. And it is still essential that "indirect victims" — whites — challenge racism in whatever form it takes. As suggested by Charles King, a nationally noted sociologist and race relations expert of Atlanta, more white people need to tell white people when they are wrong.

Any one of my fellow bus riders that morning should have felt comfortable in correcting the little blond girl or her mother. The common thread that binds direct and indirect victims alike is that as one of us is denied basic rights, so can we all.

That morning, I was full of optimism, having just returned from Denver and the annual conference of the National Association of Human Rights Workers. I had experienced an intolerance of racism in that city that had restored my sense of hope.

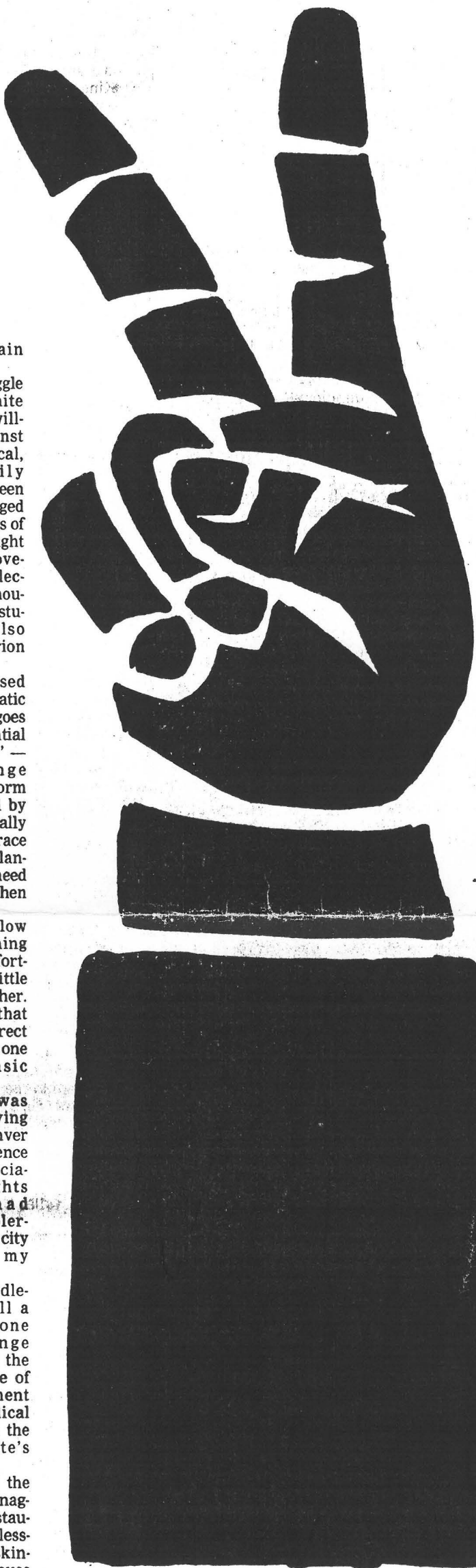
I had heard a middle-aged white man tell a mixed crowd that one method to challenge racism is to confront the "collective arrogance of whites." This statement came not from a radical fringe group but from the wisdom of that state's governor.

I had also watched the young, white night manager of a downtown restaurant calmly and effortlessly turn away three skinheads at the door because he did not welcome people who communicated such inhumane beliefs. He could just have well been the manager of a soul food restaurant on the North-east side of town.

Be it in Colorado or Oregon, advocating for equality should occur by all people as often and as effortlessly as the leveling of "daily indignities," no matter where it occurs or against whom. None of us can afford

to remain silent. We all have the responsibility to defend the beauty and strength found in our diversity.

To quote Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "A denial of justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."



© 1988, Houston Chronicle — BOB CHIN

# Police show community's commitment

By DAVID R. ROTH

I have been doing research on the problem of racist violence for about a year to see whether federal, state and local police agencies have the tools needed to cope with violent neo-Nazi groups. The quick arrest of three suspects in the murder of Mulugeta Seraw confirms my conclusion: Our police agencies do have the tools necessary to destroy racist groups whenever they transform their racist dreams into violent deeds.

The factor that determines police success is whether they really want to stop racist violence and whether there is enough political support behind them.

It has been apparent for several years that the Portland community would support police efforts to stop neo-Nazi violence. The oppoosum incident and the "Don't choke 'em, smoke 'em" T-shirt case outraged Portlanders of all colors.

In each case the city fired the officers to demonstrate that racist behavior would not be tolerated in the Police Bureau (though some were later re-instated). In addition, a civilian audit board was created to evaluate the bureau's internal investigations — establishing the principle of civilian review, with racism as its primary target.

So it is not surprising that the public, our political leaders and the police chief have reacted so strongly to Seraw's murder. Nor is it surprising that the Police Bureau was able to identify suspects and arrest them so quickly.

Unfortunately, it's been rare for American police agencies to show much commitment to protect non-whites from racist violence. As the upholders of public order in a racist society, police agencies have been expected to enforce our racial hierarchy, so they have normally treated non-whites with more brutality and disregard of legal rights than they have used against whites. For the same reason, they have often been indifferent to violence against non-whites by white civilians.

Please do not misunderstand. I am not arguing that American police agencies have been exceptionally prejudiced against non-whites; there is no evidence to support that conclusion. American police agencies have been no more or less racist than white Americans in general.

Fortunately, Americans are becoming less racist; so our police are, too. But we still have to deal with those in our society who wish to reverse the trend and return to the time when whites could assault non-whites with impunity.

It will not take long to crush the "skinheads" and other neo-Nazis, if the police agencies pursue them with the same investigative methods they use against "serious" criminal conspiracies such as organized crime. I am referring to constitutionally accepted methods like court-authorized wire-tapping, informers and undercover agents.

That is what I understood the captain of the Central Precinct, Roberta Webber, to mean when she told a meeting at Martin Luther King School that she considered neo-Nazi violence to be criminal behavior and that she and her staff would treat them like criminals. She added that she had had a criminal intelligence officer investigating white gangs for a year.

The fight against racist violence is even more important than the fight against organized crime, because racism is an attack on democracy.

*David R. Roth of Southwest Portland is an employee of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industry, which is responsible for investigating violations of state and federal civil rights laws.*

# Gorbachev's work cut out for him, but U.S. can help

By SANDY GRADY

Years ago in the West Virginia hills, a dam burst and the Buffalo Creek went crazy. Water ripped down the mountainside like a

be a genie hard to stuff back inside the bottle.

Ironies abound. Here's a country at which we've got 10,000 nuke warheads and most of our \$300 billion Pentagon budget aimed. But





# End protected status of gay bashing

By DAVID REINHARD

Associate Editor, *The Oregonian*

"Fag." That's how it all began in the first hours of last Aug. 1.

Unlike recent Skinhead violence that left a black man dead on a Portland street, August's incident left no dead or national headlines or local cries for brotherly love.

Perhaps a murder is needed for that. Or, in some twisted contest of the damned, perhaps another black victim. Or a Jew, or any of the usual victims of hate violence.

But a homosexual? Intimidation of homosexuals — gay bashing — is something of a protected sport in Oregon. Gay bashers gain special sanctuary by our law's deliberate failure to ban the bullying of homosexuals.

State law makes actions intended to harm or frighten because of race, color, religion or national origin a Class A misdemeanor, a Class C felony if two people act together. But the Legislature purposely left gays and lesbians out of the 1981 law's protections.

It should just as purposely include them under this statute in 1989. A bill has been introduced by the House Judiciary Committee at the request of Multnomah County District Attorney Michael D. Schrunk to do just this. A tolerant and civilized state should do no less.

"Fag." That was the word from one of the three Skinheads near Southwest 11th Avenue and Stark Street last Aug. 1. According to the police report, the object of this attention did not remain silent. He informed the three that they really had a problem. The

three male Skinheads, along with a female Skinhead who was walking a dog, followed the lone man down the dark street to Stark. At the corner of Stark, the three set upon him, kicking him and pulling his keys off his belt. The victim was not sure how many times he was kicked, but said he was kicked in the nose and complained of swelling and pain in one thigh.

After later being arrested at O'Bryant Square, one of this pack told a policeman that they "beat up some faggot."

Of course, the assault itself was unlawful. Yet the intimidation and threats that were a terrifying prelude to it were not. The bullying of homosexuals leads easily to the bashing of homosexuals. And the Stark Street bash was no isolated incident. Both bullying and bashing appear to be on the rise locally and nationally.

Local law enforcement officials can offer no figures on the problem. There are enough violations to be chronicled without doing extra paperwork in classifying non-violations. Still, the general belief is that gay bashing not only goes on — after all, there's a name for it — but that it is increasing.

Sgt. Robert LaGae of the Portland Police Bureau's Central Precinct says there are more confrontations than in the past. There has always been what LaGae calls "redneck heterosexual society" on the streets — "up front and vocal." But gays are out of the closet and are often talking right back. The new combination can be deadly.

For a nightly earful of this "street chatter," LaGae suggests setting up a listening post on the streets around a well-known gay bar in downtown Portland. For a national picture, consider the following: The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force reported 2,042 hate crimes in 1985 against homosexuals; The number jumped to 4,946 in 1986.

If an advocacy group's figures are

suspect, consider the more general findings of a recent report for the U.S. Justice Department's National Institute of Justice. Hate violence — verbal intimidation, assault and vandalism directed at a whole group — may be on the rise and becoming more violent, said the report, adding: "Homosexuals are probably the most frequent victims."

Bringing gays and lesbians in under the state's anti-intimidation statutes, the Oregon Citizens Alliance's Lon Mabon has said, may be a "subtle way of giving credibility" to homosexuality. Drawing distinctions between heterosexuality and homosexuality in our law and public life is important work, and conservatives and others are right in challenging many of the demands of Oregon's homosexual lobby.

But this is not the issue. This is a time for fine distinctions. A more expansive anti-intimidation statute is not a way of giving subtle acceptability to homosexuality. Does anyone seriously believe Schrunk and his prosecutors have enlisted in a grand crusade of the homosexual lobby? Come, come. To reject this bill would be an unsubtle way of giving acceptability to the bullying of homosexuals.

One hallmark of a prudent conservatism is dealing with the world as it is, not as we would like it to be. Gay bashing is as much a part of reality as racial violence, perhaps more so in these times. Providing legal protections against this form of hate violence is hardly the special protection conservatives fear in other areas.

Let the debate on homosexuality in Oregon go forward. Let it be a passionate yet civil debate. But gay bashing has no part in that debate or a civilized and tolerant society. Our laws should express our moral revulsion against it.

Saints or sinners, neither or both, homosexuals are our brothers and sisters and should not have to walk the streets in fear.



REINHARD



# Portland hate groups active in past year

Here is a list of racial attacks and incidents in the Portland area in the past year. Loren Christensen, the Portland police crime information officer who kept the list, said other incidents of what police call "hate crime" have occurred in the Portland metropolitan area but have not been recorded.

- Feb. 7: Two Skinheads walk up to a white man in Northwest Portland and ask him what he thinks about white supremacists. When he tells them, "Not much, if you're an example," he is beaten.

- Feb. 8: Skinheads hit a plain-clothes security guard after they are asked to leave the Lincoln High School campus.

- Feb. 10: Two Skinheads kick and punch a white man who asked them, "What's up?" while watching them harass a motorist in downtown Portland.

- Feb. 12: Police break up an impending fight between 15 Skinheads and 15 members of the Bloods gang at Pioneer Courthouse Square by closing the square.

- March 10: Skinheads armed with baseball bats threaten a family after the children insulted Skinheads.

- March 10: Three Skinheads attack an Asian man when he and his family are leaving a downtown Portland restaurant. The man is hit 10 to 15 times, and is kicked in the stomach and left side of his head. The Skinheads also make racist remarks to the man's Caucasian wife and 2-year-old daughter. Two 17-year-old boys are convicted and an 18-year-old man pleaded guilty in connection with the racially motivated assault.

- March 30: A Skinhead robs a downtown business early in the morning and molests a clerk, who set off a silent alarm. Police arrest the man at gunpoint.

- April 2: A black man's car is destroyed, and Skinhead graffiti is left behind.
- April 2: Skinhead graffiti is spray-painted on the windows of the downtown business that was robbed earlier.

- April 2: A black man's car is destroyed, and Skinhead graffiti are left behind.

- April 2: Skinhead graffiti are spray-painted on the windows of the downtown business that was robbed earlier.

- June 8: Four Skinheads are arrested after drawing swastikas on the wall at O'Bryant Square in downtown Portland.

- June 13: A woman Skinhead gets into a fight with a white man in downtown Portland and beats him with a pipe.

- June 16: A beach party along Northeast Marine Drive ends when a Skinhead fires a shot at someone. No one is hurt.

## Hate: Report says hate-group activity in Oregon concentrated in Portland

■ Continued from Page B1

reports — more than the coalition's total for Oregon — because of different criteria and record-keeping methods and the lack of a central reporting agency for the area.)

"Washington was first and Oregon was second, but Portland is magnified, due to Skinhead activity," said D. Tony Stewart, a professor of political science at North Idaho College in Coeur d'Alene and president of the coalition. "Even more so than Seattle," he added, stressing that probably less than half of the actual hate crime in the region was reported to the coalition.

- Up to last fall, hate groups in Portland aimed at whites, according to Officer Loren Christensen, crime information officer at the Portland Police Bureau Central Precinct.

Between then and the end of the year, blacks, Asians and Hispanics seemed to be the targets, Christensen said.

On the other hand, no group seemed to be safer than any other last month, as whites and non-whites alike were victims of Skinhead violence and harassment, Christensen said.

"It's hard to say why" the change in victims occurred, he said. "Basically, (Skinheads) are cowards — that's why they choose the gang format" for most attacks.

### Hard to explain

It's also hard for officials to pinpoint why hate-group activity increased so drastically after Seraw's death.

"When there's a major incident and an arrest, things have quieted down," Christensen said, noting that was the case after Hock-Seng "Sam" Chin, a native of Singapore, was beaten and kicked and his wife and daughter were the victims of racial insults outside a downtown Portland restaurant last March. Three youths have been convicted in the case.

"That has been kind of typical across the United States," Christensen said, "but after the (Seraw) homicide that didn't happen. These people see a lot of glamour in this incident. They are going to act out. They think they have people really frightened of them — and they do."

Gregory Gudger, who as executive director of the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission provides reports of minority harassment to both Portland police and the Northwest Coalition, likened the Skinhead response to Seraw's death and the subsequent arrest of three East Side Pride members to the inspiration felt by the visiting team in sports.

"When you are in your own arena and things are going well, there are cheers and that inspires you," Gudger said. "When you are on your opponent's field, where there were cheers there are now boos. But when you hear those boos, you know you are doing something right," he said. "It's sort of an inspirational reversal."

Gudger, who said he received death threats after appearing on a television talk show on Skinheads, added that the aberration in racist activity felt after Seraw's death could be attributed to a "follow-the-leader" syndrome.

**"Basically, (Skinheads) are cowards — that's why they choose the gang format."**

Officer Loren Christensen,  
Portland Police Bureau

Robert Hughes, a regional mediator of community relations services for the U.S. Justice Department in Seattle, said he'd "be afraid to speculate" on the reasons for the unusual rash of racial incidents following Seraw's death. Hughes prepared the annual report for the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment.

"At this point, it is not clear as to why in this particular instance we've had this kind of reaction in contrast to our general experience," Hughes said. "In almost every case, there has been a deterrent effect, nationally, as well as in the region," when there are arrests after a well-publicized racially motivated crime, he said.

But continued vigorous investigation and prosecution of the Seraw case — and every racial crime — may keep the number of future incidents more in line with the usual experience, he said.

### Portland totals

Beatings and assaults, including Seraw's death, led the list of Skinhead activity in the last 13 months, the Portland Police Bureau's Christensen said. There were 22 reports of such crime, with the next highest number of incidents — 13 — involving vandalism or graffiti.

Guns and knives were used or displayed in eight cases, while threats by Skinheads were reported six times, and there was one arrest for arson, police records show.

Although accounting for only five reports, robberies — both with and without weapons — were especially troubling because they represent a new arena for Skinheads, Christensen said.

On the whole, hate-group activity is up, he said, "because the whole movement is out doing more." Leaders of Aryan Nations and other neo-Nazi, white separatist groups are aiming at Portland, he said, attracting new recruits and strengthening local racist organizations.

Christensen explained that Portland is ripe for hate groups because it has a smaller minority population than many other large, metropolitan cities.

"Oregon is targeted as a state the neo-Nazis want as their free state because it is easier to move all those minorities out of here," he said.

"We do believe at this moment that you do face the most serious (hate-crime) problem in the Northwest," the coalition's Stewart said of Portland.

At the same time, the coalition wants to "commend the citizens of Portland for how they have rallied" against Seraw's death and other hate crime, Stewart said, referring to the "City of Unity Rainbow Rally" that drew more than 2,000 participants to Pioneer Courthouse Square last month.



# O/NORTHWEST

Local news, B7

The Sunday Oregonian, February 5, 1989

B

## Hate-group activity remains threat

□ Police and human rights advocates say the increase in Skinhead activity after the killing of Mulugeta Seraw is contrary to the usual experience

By **HOLLY DANKS**  
of The Oregonian staff

Portland police say that reports of hate-group activity were down to nine last month after jumping to 26 incidents in December after the beating death of an Ethiopian national, allegedly by Skinheads.

A police list of Skinhead and other hate-group activity in the Portland area for the last 13 months includes 56 reports, with more than half of those — 35 — coming in the 12 weeks since the Nov. 13 beating death of Mulugeta Seraw. Three Skinheads are awaiting trial on charges of murder in the death of the 27-year-old Ethiopian national outside his Southeast Portland apartment.

Human rights advocates and police note that more and more people are reporting hate-group activity, and the

general populace is becoming more aware of the type of racist harassment and violence minority groups have faced all along.

On the other hand, there's more fear of hate groups among the community at large, the officials acknowledge.

"I think everybody is aware of the violence that can be associated with these groups — and I think more people are afraid to walk downtown, to go to Pioneer Courthouse Square," which is perceived as a Skinhead hangout, said Joan Weil, an alternate member of the coalition's board of directors and area director of the Portland chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

Police and others fighting hate groups also reported:

• In recent weeks, some victims have been fighting back against Skinhead attackers, who usually try to pick on those they think they can bully,

police said.

On the other hand, recent attacks have included several robberies involving weapons, something police said didn't fit the usual Skinhead penchant. Skinheads are youths with links to such white separatist and Neo-Nazi groups as Aryan Nations and the Ku Klux Klan.

• As reported to the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, Washington had 42 and Oregon had 14 incidents of hate crime from Oct. 1, 1987, to Sept. 30, 1988. The other states in the coalition — Idaho, Wyoming and Montana — had a total of four incidents during the same time, the coalition's monitoring committee announced at a recent meeting in Salem.

On the other hand, most of those 14 Oregon incidents could be traced to Skinhead activity in Portland, the committee report said. (The Portland Police Bureau list of 1988 hate-group activity through Sept. 30 contains 17



The Oregonian/CLAUDIA J. HOWELL

White separatist graffiti deface a bathroom door at Essex Park in Southeast Portland.

Please turn to  
**HATE, Page B5**



Oregonian - Aug 13 1989

# Portland-area hate crimes rise after murder of Ethiopian man

By GEORGE BUNDY SMITH

of The Oregonian staff

Hate crimes in the Portland area increased dramatically after the murder of a black man from Ethiopia in November, according to a report issued Monday by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

The finding runs against a national trend that shows the number of such crimes decreasing after a hate-motivated murder, said Georgia Owens, who researched and compiled the report.

"Multnomah County cannot wait for state or federal mandates" concerning hate crimes because the problem is too acute here, Owens said at a news conference.

The commission's report says blacks were most likely to be the targets of hate crimes. They were victimized in 31 of the 84 incidents reported. Skinheads and other white supremacists were responsible for the majority — 55 percent — of the incidents, according to the report.

The study is the first comprehensive hate-crime report compiled by the Metropolitan Human Relations Commission or any other government agency in Oregon.

A hate crime is defined as a criminal act against persons, property, institutions or businesses because of race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

The most serious crime was the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, a black man from Ethiopia who was beaten to death outside his apartment Nov. 13.

Kenneth Mieske, a Skinhead and

member of East Side White Pride, was sentenced to a minimum of 20 years for the murder. Two other defendants, Kyle H. Brewster and Steven R. Stradder, are awaiting trial in the case.

The report says 77 of the 84 hate crimes occurred from November 1988 to May 1989, after Seraw's murder.

But Owens says that hate crimes were not limited to white-on-black crimes.

"The statistics show that the perpetrators are not just Skinheads. The statistics show that the victims are not just black," she said.

Whites were victims of 20 percent of the hate crimes. Jews were victims of 18 percent of the hate crimes.

The report says that incidents occurred "randomly and sporadically" throughout the city, with 82 percent of the incidents taking place in the northeast, southeast and southwest areas.

Assaults increased most dramatically in Northeast and Southeast Portland.

According to the study, there were no reported incidents of racial, religious or sexual-orientation harassment or violence in unincorporated Multnomah County or the cities of Fairview, Gresham, Maywood Park, Troutdale and Wood Village. The study did not make clear whether there were no hate crimes at all or whether people were just not reporting them.

Owens said the report probably was a conservative estimate of the actual number of incidents. She said each of the 84 incidents was verified through official records.

The commission used data from several sources, including the Portland Police Bureau, the Multnomah County sheriff's department, the Gresham Police Department, the Multnomah County district attorney's office and Rep. Ron Wyden's office. The report did not present a

**"The statistics show that the perpetrators are not just Skinheads."**

— Georgia Owens

complete statistical portrait of hate crimes in Multnomah County, Owens said. The statistics were compiled from May 10, 1988, to May 10, 1989.

The commission urged better tracking efforts and improved training for law enforcement officers in identifying hate-motivated crimes and in showing sensitivity to victims.

Owens said the report did not examine why hate crimes were increasing, but commission members said they hoped to conduct a follow-up study to determine some of the reasons.

The commission's report follows a U.S. Justice Department finding that from April to June, almost as many incidents of malicious harassment occurred in the Northwest as in the previous six months.

Sixty-nine hate crimes were logged in the five-state Northwest region last quarter, compared with 70 such incidents in the six months ending March 31, said Bob Hughes, department spokesman. Hughes presented the statistics Friday to the executive board of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment during its quarterly meeting in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

"All the signs I see around the Northwest and the condition of this country points to the fact that we haven't seen the worst of it yet," said Bill Wassmuth, the coalition's executive director. "Tougher times are coming."



OWENS

## AN UNDERCURRENT OF HATE

# White racists remain as Skinhead image wanes

By DIANE DULKEN

Correspondent, The Oregonian

In the year since Mulugeta Seraw was killed, racist white youth continue to pose a random menace in the Portland metropolitan area.

Law enforcement officials estimate that there are about 250 to 300 Skinheads and associates in the metropolitan area, whose degrees of belief in "white pride" or "white power" vary from the superficial to the staunchly committed. Their associations are so loose-knit and their actions so spontaneous that to use the word "gang" often is to overstate their level of organization.

According to Loren Christensen, the Portland police officer in charge of monitoring white supremacist activity: "These people don't know five minutes before they're going to do something that they're going to do it."

Very often their victims are white. "Many of them start out by asking, 'Do you date niggers? Do you believe in white pride?' It doesn't really matter what you answer," Christensen says. "You get beat up if they want to beat you up."

Since the birth of the Skinhead movement in Great Britain in the late 1960s and early 1970s, the image has been of shaved heads and combat-style attire, including Doc Martens boots, flight jackets, tattoos and suspenders, called "braces."

Authorities have noted that not all people who dress the part believe in white supremacy. For some, the look is simply a statement of fashion and affinity for a brand of hard-driving music. Recently, however, even the image is changing.

Because of police crackdowns on Skinheads, many young white supremacists have toned down the combat-style attire and grown out their hair — or not shaved it off in the first place. Soon the term Skinhead may become obsolete as a descriptive label, although it still applies as an expression of the potent combination of racist views and violence some youths exhibit.

Many of the groups that were prominent a year ago — East Side White Pride, Preservation of the White American Race or POWAR in Portland, Youth of Hitler in Milwaukee and Northern Hammerskins in Washington County — largely disbanded after the arrests on various

**"We're not racists — we're just racially aware."**

— a Portland Skinhead

charges of more prominent members. A new group calling themselves Bro-Skins may be cropping up in outer Southeast Portland, according to police reports. But most Skinheads now band together informally.

Authorities who have monitored white-racist activity say that the kind of person who embraces the Skinhead philosophy fits the classic profile of disenfranchised youth: someone who has an unstable or difficult home life, who may have been sexually or physically abused, has low self-esteem, no direction in life, hasn't been able to make it in school but who, in a group, finds a sense of family and solidarity.

"By and large I see them as just screwed-up kids, alienated kids," says Bill Fogarty, a Multnomah County juvenile court counselor. "If they happen to develop an interest in the music and if they happen to

develop some friendship with somebody who is involved or connected with Skinhead-type stuff, then they're ripe and they could very easily be pulled into that."

But one Portland Skinhead with ties to East Side White Pride, who agreed to an interview on the condition of anonymity, said that the authorities cannot generalize about Skinheads.

"We all have our own personalities," said the Skinhead, a school dropout who now holds a full-time job. "But you can't be a scum on the street; you have to have self-respect. That's one of the main things."

"We're not racists — we're just racially aware," the Skinhead added. "It makes me feel good when people notice they are white and they practice segregation. We don't consider ourselves better than them (minorities). We just don't want to be with them."

Portland Skinheads maintain contact with other Skinheads and hate groups across the country, both in person and through the mail.

The night of the Seraw killing, East Side White Pride members took to downtown Portland streets to distribute a four-page tabloid from the California-based Aryan Youth Movement, also known as the White Student Union. The organization, headed by John Metzger, is an offshoot of the White Aryan Resistance, headed by John Metzger's father, Tom Metzger, a former grand dragon of the California Ku Klux Klan.

Just how much influence the Metzger organizations have is at issue in a civil lawsuit filed in October by two national civil rights organizations in U.S. District Court in Portland.

The lawsuit by the Southern Poverty Law Center and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith on behalf of the Seraw family charges that "agents" of the White Aryan Resistance — WAR — spurred the East Side White Pride Skinheads to "commit violent acts against blacks and others to promote white supremacy."

In a similar lawsuit by the South-

ern Poverty Law Center, an Alabama jury in 1987 awarded \$7 million to the mother of a black man slain by Ku Klux Klan members, a judgment that inflicted deep financial damage against the United Klans of America.

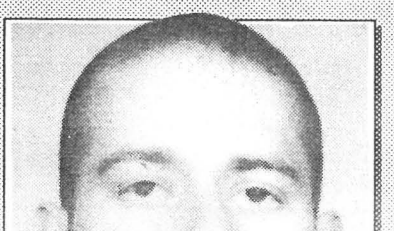
Although the Portland lawsuit does not specify who the WAR agents were, at least three California Skinheads — including Aryan Youth Movement's vice president — were in Portland at the time of Seraw's death, and two of them were living with Steven R. Strasser, who has pleaded guilty to his role in the Seraw killing.

The presence of racism and its violent manifestations extends beyond the activities of hate groups, notes Bill Wassmuth, executive director of the Northwest Coalition Against Malicious Harassment, a five-state group born in response to the presence of white supremacists near Hayden Lake, Idaho.

"The supremacists don't have a monopoly hold on racist violent incidents," Wassmuth said. "We need to get our heads out of the sand and realize that racism is a virus in our society."

**Year later,  
Skinhead  
still clings  
to beliefs**

## SERAW'S KILLERS



## Hate: Racial crimes increased after killing

Continued from Page One

Today, one of them, Tilahule Ant-nah lives in seclusion in Portland.

**MEMORIALS**



# Seraw's slaying remains vivid memory for Portland's Ethiopians

By DAVID AUSTIN  
of The Oregonian staff

**B**etre Melles walks slowly in River View Cemetery among rows and rows of headstones when he stops at a spot with no marker.

The slight, rectangular indentation of a casket is all he needs to find his friend, Mulugeta Seraw. The shadow of a flowering plum tree creeps slowly down the hillside over the grave on a crisp, fall day.

Melles stares at the grave for a few seconds and then shakes his head, as if doing so will somehow wash away the grief he is feeling.

"Everything is still fresh in my mind," Melles says. "I have lost a friend and a fellow human being. The pain is still there and it always will be."

A year ago, three Skinheads beat Seraw, an Ethiopian national, to

death with a baseball bat. Seraw, 27, just had been dropped off at his Southeast Portland apartment by two friends, Tilahule Antneh and Wondwosen Tesfaye, when he was attacked.

It was 1:30 a.m. when a car full of Skinheads stopped and began shouting racial slurs at Seraw and his friends. Words were exchanged and the confrontation soon erupted into a full-scale brawl.

The three Skinheads were convicted this year of murder, manslaughter and various charges in connection with the attack.

But while those responsible have been jailed, members of the Ethiopian community are still feeling a gaping wound that was ripped open a year ago. The crime cut short the life of a man who came to this country to escape the hardships of his native land and earn an education at Portland State University.

"He was like a brother to me," said Endayehu Kendie, a board member of the Ethiopian Community Cultural Organization, who met Seraw in 1981. "We were very close. I can't get myself to go to the gravesite because a part of me doesn't want to accept that he is dead. The whole thing is still very vivid in my memory."

Kendie said she and Seraw both emigrated to Portland from Debre-tabor, a town in western Ethiopia. They became friends soon after they met and they talked frequently.

Seraw worked as a shuttle bus driver for Avis Rent-A-Car at Portland International Airport. He was trying to earn money to continue his schooling and had hopes of one day returning to Ethiopia.

Abraham Demissie, who is the secretary of the ECCO, said about 600 Ethiopians live in the Portland area. Most are students, while

others work, Demissie said.

"A lot of the Ethiopian people who are here have been here a long time," said Demissie, who has lived in Portland for 18 years. "I don't think Mulugeta's death will stop anyone from coming. It just makes you think."

Some emigres, he said, have seen their native country turn from a generally tranquil nation to a place teeming with famine and civil war.

"Most of the recent emigres have seen worse hardship," Demissie said. "But this is worse than any kind of revolution. You try to make a home here where freedom rings, and this happens. It doesn't leave a good taste in your mouth."

Melles said Antneh is living in seclusion in Portland and refuses to discuss any aspects of the death of his friend. Tesfaye has since moved to Los Angeles. He also will not talk about the attack.

However, other members of the

Ethiopian community are more vocal. Melles, who describes himself as a community activist, said the fight against racially motivated crime is "an ongoing battle."

"The image of Portland has been tarnished to the point where it's now considered a reference point for racist activity," Melles said. "Mulugeta Seraw was killed not because he was an Ethiopian, but because he was a black man. The community as a whole needs to fight against this kind of thinking."

Kendie said she had been impressed by the response of the Portland community to denounce racial hatred. "There were rallies, gatherings, a lot of things happened when he died. I hope it keeps going on," she said.

Demissie remembers Seraw as a young man who had only nice things to say to people.

"He treated everyone very well and he was always happy," Demissie

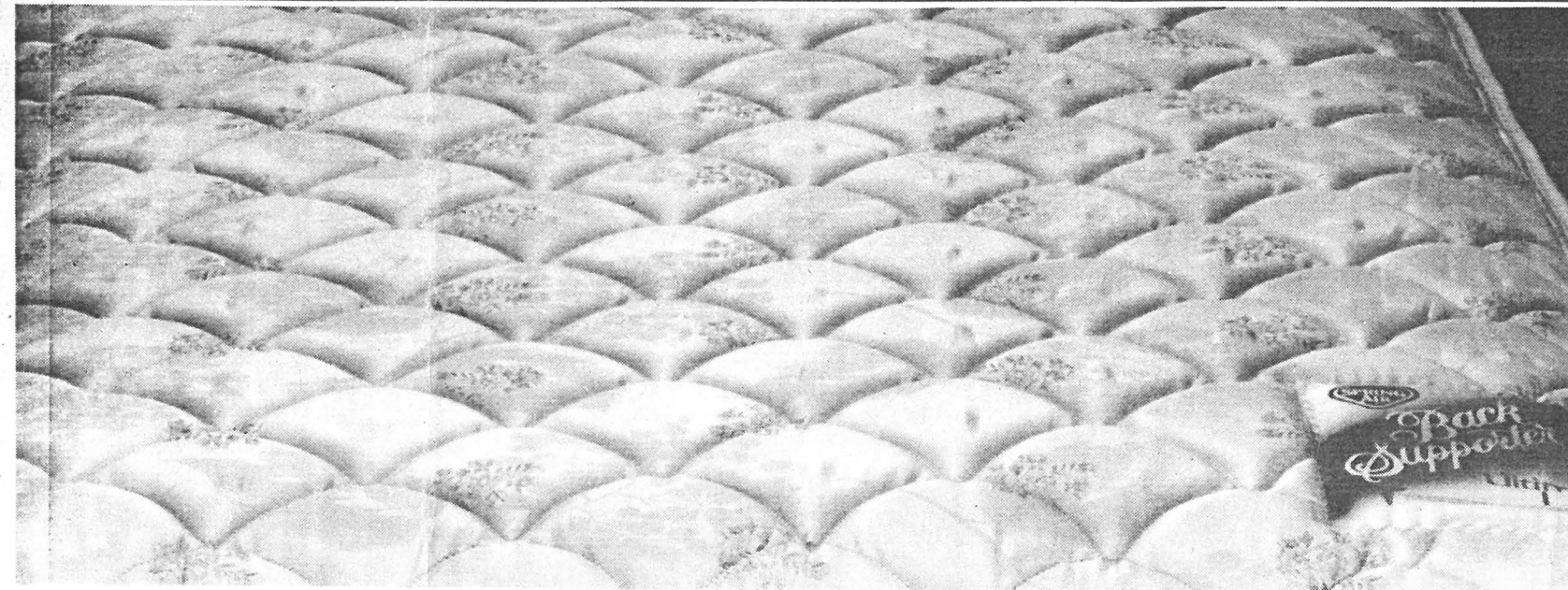
said. "He was one of those people who always could cheer you up. He didn't have time to be upset or mad. It's hard to have someone like that missing."

Coincidentally, Seraw was buried next to the grave of Joseph "Ray Ray" Winston, a Portland teen-ager who in August 1988 also met a violent death when he became the first drive-by shooting homicide victim in the Pacific Northwest.

"They both died so violently and then came to rest here," Melles said. "So often we forget that we are going to end up in a grave sometime. These people both died brutally and now they are laying next to each other. Maybe this will cause people to stand up and take notice that we should live in harmony."

"Mulugeta's death shows our community that we must not be afraid. If we are afraid, then those responsible will have won. We can't let them win."

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● June 18: A black man is attacked by a group of Skinheads in downtown Portland.

● Aug. 1: Four Skinheads beat a man in Northwest Portland and yell slurs at him because they think he is gay.

● Aug. 13: A white man is stabbed by a Skinhead during a fight in Northwest Portland.

● Sept. 10: Twenty Skinheads attack two white men in Washington Park, beating one unconscious. Five minutes after that attack, about 20 Skinheads stab a guard at a downtown Safeway store.

● Oct. 7: Twenty Skinheads attack two white men in Southeast Portland.

● Oct. 9: About 15 Skinheads attack a white man and his Hispanic girlfriend in downtown Portland.

● Oct. 16: Twelve Skinheads attack two women and a man at Rocky Butte.

● Nov. 13: An Ethiopian national is beaten to death with a baseball bat when three men attack him and two friends outside his Southeast Portland apartment. Three Skinheads are now awaiting trial on murder charges.

● Dec. 2: A black man waiting for a bus in Southeast Portland is robbed at gunpoint by a Skinhead who complains that foreigners are "taking all the jobs."

● Dec. 2: Skinhead graffiti are spray-painted on the outside wall of apartment complex belonging to an Ethiopian at Southeast 61st Avenue and Belmont Street.

● Dec 3: Two Skinheads, wearing camouflage clothing and heavy black boots, assault and rob a black man standing on Northeast Emerson Street. The suspects yell racial slurs as they attack the man.

● Dec 3: A Skinhead is arrested for allegedly carrying an open container of alcohol and a straight-edge razor at Southwest Park Avenue and Jefferson Street.

● Dec 5: Three Skinheads intimidate a white man on a Tri-Met bus at Southeast 45th Avenue and Johnson Creek Road. The suspects follow the victim off the bus and assault him while he is trying to call police. The victim ends up in hospital.

● Dec. 6: A woman tells police she was frightened by three people dressed in hoods and robes who got out of a car in the 1900 block of Northeast 66th Avenue and walked down the street, chanting and carrying identical large, black books in front of them.

● Dec 10: Two Skinheads beat up a passerby who tries to stop them from breaking into a newspaper coin box at Southwest Ninth Avenue and Taylor Street.

● Dec 10: Suspects wearing robes and hoods and standing in a half-moon circle throw two spears, which sail over the heads of two youths playing in an orchard near Southwest Nyberg Street in Tualatin. A note attached to the point of one

spear has a drawing of a Ku Klux Klan figure or satanist holding a cross with lightning striking the cross.

● Dec. 12: Police investigate Skinhead graffiti and people loitering at loading dock on Southeast Center Street.

● Dec. 12: A Jewish Portlander receives phone threat and reports it to Metropolitan Human Relations Commission.

● Dec. 15: A vice principal at Benson High School finds white supremacist graffiti and neo-Nazi paraphernalia in lockers.

● Dec. 15: Threats are left on a telephone message machine at Jewish Family and Child Service, on Southwest Morrison Street. The message says, "Death, you shall die. Skinheads watching you. East Side White Pride will kill. Slay the Jews. Adolph Hitler. You guys just watch it. Portland Skins will get you."

● Dec. 16: Two Skinheads are arrested on charges of arson, making threats, carrying concealed weapons and racial intimidation after allegedly setting fire to a pile of napkins at a Wendy's fast-food restaurant in Southeast Portland. A black employee finds a note with a racial slur, telling him to beware, on a napkin.

● Dec. 18: Nazi graffiti, including swastikas, are spray-painted on Temple Beth Israel on Northwest Flanders Street.

● Dec. 18: A black man in Southeast Portland receives a phone threat from two Skinheads he says he knows.

● Dec. 18: Police stop two Skinheads making racial slurs at blacks at the Confetti Club in downtown Portland.

● Dec. 19: Thirty-two tombstones are knocked over, causing damage estimated at \$10,000, at Beth Israel Cemetery on Southwest Taylors Ferry Road.

● Dec 19: Graffiti referring to white supremacy and satanism are spray-painted on playground wall at Southeast 92nd Avenue and Steele Street.

● Dec. 19: The tires on a car belonging to a black person are slashed at Southeast 39th Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard.

● Dec.19: Milwaukie police question youths handing out hate literature featuring a new post office box number for the group.

● Dec. 22: A Skinhead in a car with two other Skinheads points a revolver at passing vehicles on Interstate 5 south of Washington 14 in Washington state. Three Youth of Hitler members believed to have been involved in incident are later arrested by Milwaukie police.

● Dec. 24: Three members of the Youth of Hitler gang are arrested for first-degree intimidation, disorderly conduct and harassment involving an assault on a black man at a mar-

ket in Milwaukie.

● Dec. 27: Vandals use shaving cream to draw swastikas and Nazi graffiti on a vehicle parked at Southeast 71st Avenue and Carlton Street.

● Dec. 28: An 18-year-old Japanese youth is assaulted by two Skinheads at Lloyd Center.

● Dec. 28 or 29: A Skinhead fires a shot from a car at a black woman and child walking through a parking lot outside a store at Jantzen Beach.

● Dec. 28 or 29: A sailor stationed at Swan Island is assaulted on a Tri-Met bus by a group of Skinheads in North Precinct.

● Jan. 1: Many garbage cans painted with swastikas and Youth of Hitler slogans appear in Milwaukie.

● Jan. 10: A black man at a gas station at Southeast 17th Avenue and Tacoma Street is called names by two Skinheads. When he leaves, they follow his car, forcing it into a curb. He gets out of the car and beats the Skinheads in a fight they picked.

● Jan. 12: Racist posters are found on power poles in the 300 block of North Russet.

● Jan. 12: An impending fight between 15 to 20 blacks and four Skinheads at Franklin High School

breaks up when police arrive. Skinheads had been stopping students leaving school to make sure no one was wearing red, a gang color.

● Jan. 15: A Skinhead uses a stiletto knife to rob a white man of \$10 in Couch Park.

● Jan. 15: A person wearing a white hooded robe is seen walking near Davis Elementary School at Northeast 194th Avenue and Glisan Street.

● Jan. 27: A Skinhead is arrested on a charge of fourth-degree assault after he allegedly picked a fight and kicked a patron in the groin outside the Embers, a bar on Northwest Broadway. While five bar patrons held the combative suspect for police, the Skinhead received a cut on the chin that required stitches.

● Jan. 30: A white man is punched in the mouth by one of three Skinheads at Southwest 12th Avenue and Morrison Street.

● Jan. 30: A Skinhead reports that he was the victim of a hit-and-run accident at Southwest 14th Avenue and Jefferson Street. His leg was broken in an accident he said was in retaliation for his harassing blacks and Asians earlier in the day.



## Slurs shock family



JOHN M. VINCENT

George and Sharon Pillay were devastated when they discovered that their home had been defaced with hate slogans.

# Hate again rears ugly head

□ A Portlander from South Africa finds messages of hatred scrawled around the inside of the family home

By MIKO YIM  
of The Oregonian staff

George Pillay came home Monday to a trail of hate.

Scrawled in large, brick-red letters on his walls, carpet, furniture and heirlooms were all the reasons he had left South Africa.

Ugly splashes of spray paint dotted the drapes, books were scattered, and pictures of loved ones were defaced. The intruders apparently entered the house through a bedroom window.

"To see this . . .," Pillay said, pointing to the racial slurs, profanity and the words "leave" and "we will kill you" painted

around his living room, "we never anticipated we'd see this in America."

Pillay is a 39-year-old South African of Indian descent. He moved his wife, Sharon, and their three daughters last year from Johannesburg into a tidy two-bedroom house in a mostly white, outer Northeast Portland neighborhood. A theology student at Multnomah School of the Bible, he returned home Monday afternoon and discovered the crime.

They don't own the house, but they keep the grass trimmed and house looking neat as if it were their own. Sharon Pillay hung the white curtains and the mementos that made the house a home.

Now, George Pillay shakes his head in

disbelief at the mess inside his home. More than the intrusion, more than the computer, camera and other property stolen, he is shaken by the blatant hatred.

"Apartheid doesn't cross your mind in South Africa; it never bothered you because it was the norm of the day — you expected it — but not here."

Hate crimes are defined as crimes motivated by race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation, said Steve Kincaid, supervisor of the Oregon State Police's Uniform Crime Reporting Center.

The state police began tracking hate crimes in Oregon only in October 1989.

"Assault, robbery and some of the crummy things that people do to each other was our business, but to say that it

Please turn to  
**HATE, Page B5**



# Hate: Statistics for 1990 show 202 crimes reported in county

## ■ Continued from Page B1

may have been motivated by race or sexual orientation — that's something new," Kincaid said.

Although the most notorious Portland hate crime was the 1989 beating death of Mulugeta Seraw, an Ethiopian, there have been others.

According to 1990 crime statistics, 202 hate crimes were reported to police in Multnomah County.

A soon-to-be released crime report for the first six months of 1991 indicates that 165 hate crimes were reported to police in Multnomah County, 120 of them related to national origin and race.

Sharon Pillay is frightened for her children.

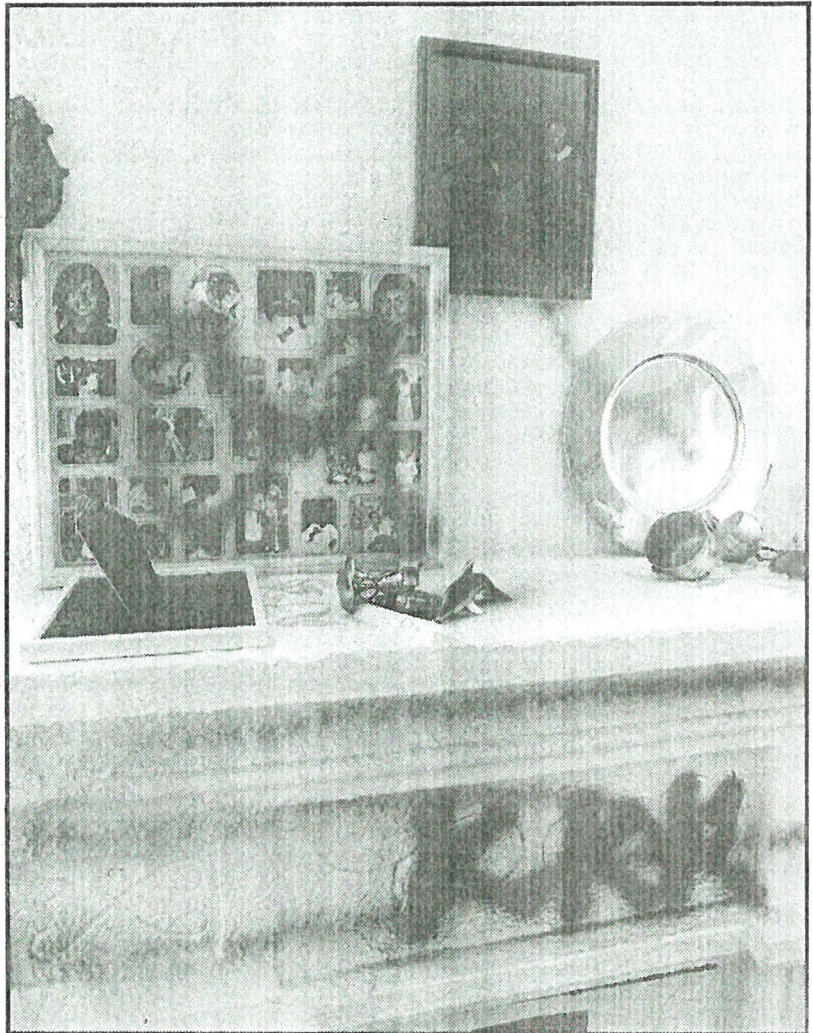
Denise and Desiree, her two oldest daughters, had been the target of racial harassment from fellow students at Madison High School last year.

Now that the harassment has hit home, Sharon said she wasn't sure what she was going to tell them when they returned from school.

George Pillay said he had lost confidence in the country he once admired.

He and his wife discussed moving back to Johannesburg.

"The only difference between apartheid in South Africa and America is that South Africa was dumb enough to legislate it. In America, in some way it is worse," he said.



JOHN VINCENT

**Photos and other mementos were damaged in George and Sharon Pillay's home. They are considering leaving the country.**



# White supremacists stage rally

□ Counterdemonstrators gather across the street as police are called in to separate the two groups

By MICHAEL ROLLINS  
of The Oregonian staff

About 30 white supremacists and a coalition of 100 human rights supporters engaged in a 30-minute exchange of salty insults, taunts and gestures Saturday afternoon behind Portland City Hall.

The two factions were on opposite sides of Southwest Fourth Avenue, separated by about 30 police in riot helmets. There were no injuries or arrests.

The supremacists were led by Robert Heick, who described himself as the national chairman of the American Front, based in San Francisco.

The Front-organized rally was to protest what Heick called the "media-inspired" \$12.5 million ruling against Tom and John Metzger, and to celebrate "White Workers Day."

Last fall, a Multnomah County jury found the Metzgers financially liable for spreading hate literature and recruiting Skinheads in Portland who were later convicted in the November 1988 beating death of Mulegeta Seraw, a black man.

A prepared statement by Heick read, "It



White supremacists give a Nazi salute during a rally behind Portland City Hall, which attracted about 30 supporters . . .

is politically significant to the third positionist revolutionary Aryan Nationalist movement as it symbolizes the revolutionary white working class theme of May Day as observed by the left, while rejecting the Marxist claim to its origin, and simultaneously recognizing its Aryan roots as the age old European celebration of spring."

Heick said he moved to Portland several months ago to help turn "the five Northwest

states into the Aryan homeland." He estimated that there are 100 American Front members in Oregon, about 30 in Portland. He promised to make the rally an annual event.

Word of the supremacist rally started circulating Friday evening throughout the Portland anti-Skinhead community, said Jonathan Mozzochi of the Coalition for Human Dignity.



... and about 100 human-rights counterdemonstrators. There were no injuries or arrests in the angry verbal jousting.

Coalition member Pat McGuire said her organization has a mailing list of 300 and an active membership of about 75.

Other groups who joined the coalition included Radical Women; Northwest Veterans for Peace; the Radical Activist Truth Squad, a gay rights group; and the Coalition

Please turn to  
RALLY, Page D3

## Rally: Participants don Nazi-type regalia

■ Continued from Page D1

Heick's group gathered at an undisclosed Southeast Portland location and drove to City Hall in several cars. Most members wore gray shirts and black pants, and sported assorted Nazi-type badges, kerchiefs and flags.

As the coalition members approached, Heick gave a crisp command and his group snapped out Hitler salutes and started chanting. They were matched syllable for syllable by the opposition.

The invective from each side was

constant and biting.

Heick accused some of the coalition members of being gay and infected with AIDS. "I don't think we'll see you here next year," Heick blared over a microphone.

One supremacist had long, blond hair. A protester shouted at him, "Hey Goldilocks, you and me, let's get it on right now." The man started to jump over a police car to run across the street, but friends pulled him back.

Until police closed off the block

after about 10 minutes, astonished passers-by headed to downtown stores had to run a gantlet of protesters and police.

Police eventually convinced Heick's group to leave and his supporters started goose-stepping in single file to their cars.

"Everybody had a chance to say what they wanted and no one was hurt," said Lt. Mike Garvey of the Portland Police Bureau.

As Heick's group left, coalition members cheered. One shouted, "You're outnumbered. We will win."