

Police Relations in the Williams Ghetto

Throughout the United States in the 1950's and 1960's the civil rights movement had achieved vital legislative victories in regard to equal rights, however, true equality did not exist. The victories achieved were immense, such as the Brown V. Board of Education that resulted in desegregation of public schools. Still, the court never enforced the ruling and whites continued to segregate schools. Other victories included the sit ins that resulted in the desegregation of stores throughout the South and the nation. It would appear to many African Americans, that the United States was heading in a better direction. Unfortunately, the system continued to allow whites ways to discriminate against African Americans, despite all of these victories.

One of the greatest problems faced by African Americans was discrimination in housing and the workplace, especially in urban centers. As a result of these practices "ghettoization" occurred across the nation, and blacks were forced into densely crowded, run down areas, better known as ghettos. During this time period, Portland Oregon had a ghetto of its own in the Williams Ave. neighborhood located in the Albina district. According to articles from the time, the neighborhood was a breeding ground for vice and violence, police relations were unsatisfactory, and there was a cry for an increased presence to combat the rising violence and crime in the area.¹ To many whites, including the Portland chief of police, the problem within the neighborhood needed the utmost attention of the community and police department.²

¹ "Ghetto Breeds Vice", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

² "Portland's Crime Problem", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

By the end of the 1950's, violence was on the rise in cities across the United States. In Portland there was a need for more police, although the city's crime levels were not as severe as New York or Los Angeles, it was still a growing problem.³ What is more, crime was considered everyone's problem, therefore it was everyone's responsibility to prevent and fight it, and an emphasis was placed on security in order to ensure the city would be under control. Episodes of youth violence in Portland such as the fatal shooting of a juvenile began appearing in headlines. Judging by one article, a 15 year old was shot and killed by a classmate, leading the public to demand something be done to improve the situation. One of the very first demands was for the increase of manpower in Portland's law enforcement agencies.

In 1959, the *Oregon Journal* compared the Williams neighborhood to the TV show "Tombstone" and the Western town by the same name, famous for its midday shootouts.⁴ Violence in the Williams neighborhood became so common, that the comparison was easily accepted by the public. Consequently, responsibility was placed on the neighborhood (non-whites) to handle the problem from within and to take control. In a similar article, the argument was made that it was up to the African American leaders and the "decent people" in the neighborhood to promote a more lawful climate, which would ultimately result in less of presence needed by police to control crime in the neighborhood."⁵

In the interesting critique comparison of the Williams neighborhood and "Tombstone", its author, William Moyes, stated that the comparison was an understatement. According to Moyes, "the shootings in Tombstone were civilized and well announced and beside that, it was

³ "Portland's Crime Problem"...

⁴ "B.Mike's Lowdown Looks Mighty Lonely for Albina, Thanks to Earp", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

⁵ "Negroes Must Help", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

always safe to walk the streets night or day. The Albina district is not safe, the violence is not civilized and it is being committed by youth, not responsible adults like in Tombstone.”⁶ It was clear that violence was beginning to become a serious problem in the Williams neighborhood. The situation called for escaping , but the problem was that African Americans were being forced to live in that area of town because of their race and economic status.

Perhaps the most important of the 1959 Williams neighborhood articles was “Negroes Must Help” by Wayne Keith. In fact this was only one of two articles that labeled the Williams neighborhood a “ghetto”. In the article, Keith argues that ghettos, like the Williams neighborhood, was a breeding ground for crime, and provided an environment where crime could be easily committed and tolerated because there existed no infrastructure to effectively fight crime. What is more, when police were actually in the area, there was only so much they could do and this was very much the result of community attitudes and even more so the dismal ignorance on the part of law enforcement officers, in regard to human relations.”⁷

One of the big questions that arose from all of this is was, what creates ghettos? In a response to Wayne Keith, Nicholas Granet claimed that ghettos were created by whites, who forced all non-whites to live in a select area within the city, he also felt that whites would continue to claim that they wanted equality, but choose not to practice it themselves.⁸ The evidence was in the continued practice of racial discrimination in housing/renting, where non-whites were essentially forced to live in the ghetto, and could not escape it.

⁶ “B.Mike’s Lowdown Looks Mighty Lonely for Albina, Thanks to Earp”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

⁷ “Ghetto Breeds Vice”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

⁸ “Hypocrites”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

As the timeline progressed it became obvious that the Williams ghetto was getting out of control, up to the point that cops refused to patrol the area on foot. This greatly limited interactions and assistance to the area. At the same time there was a large demand for an increased amount of patrols in the area and a crackdown. Part of the crackdown would close down offending establishments (i.e. liquor stores) and a strict firmness was to be shown by city hall and police headquarters towards the troubled neighborhood. By closing down liquor stores that had become popular hangouts for deviants, they would scatter and disperse creating a less concentrated group of troublemakers.⁹

However a swift crackdown might actually cause more harm than good. If a massive shakedown were to occur of all known deviant characters, it would be an extreme violation of their due process rights, which every citizen is entitled to. If a group is trying to maintain it's rights, they cannot attack and take away the rights of others, just because they are suspected deviants. In one article, Taub argued that a shakedown was the wrong solution to the ghetto problem. The real solution lay in increasing the job opportunities of African Americans and making it possible for non-whites to purchase homes outside the ghetto, allowing them to escape ghetto.¹⁰ This could only be done by eliminating discriminatory barriers that existed in the hiring/housing process.

By late 59', Williams was so dangerous that you couldn't walk the streets day or night without feeling safe. Police were doing their best, but could not provide the sufficient amount of protection for the safety of all in the community. There was a huge need for an increase in the

⁹ "The Ghetto Again", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

¹⁰ "Astounding and Thoughtless", 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

police force, both in uniform as well as plain clothed officers. Crime was a growing problem and there was a need for police to help combat the problem. In the late 1960's, there was a initiative to hire police from within the community especially minorities.¹¹ The idea was that the hiring of minority police would help ease the tension of race relations in Portland in regard to law enforcement interactions with the public.

In the big picture of things, the Williams Ave neighborhood is a microcosm of the “ghetto problem” of the North’s urban city centers. It is everything from: overcrowded housing, substandard living conditions, lack of jobs, to the crime and violence of predominantly black neighborhoods. In a historic narrative it is the civil rights struggle of the North, “white flight”, militant aggression, and institutional racism. Piecing together the articles, there is the sense that deep political rifts exist between the city and the Williams ghetto. To those living outside the ghetto, it is a question of security, or in other words containment. What is more, the problem is considered internal and youth are targeted as the problem. From policies to increase security, to programs to keep youth off the streets; these are only partial solutions not to make things better, but to maintain order within the ghetto. In *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America*, Kwame Ture and Charles V. Hamilton discuss the ghetto problem in Chapter 7 of the book. In both representations of the ghetto, the same three problems are brought up. The problems are as follow: housing, jobs, and educations. Interestingly enough, the Williams Ave. neighborhood is facing the same three problems. However, according to powers situated outside the ghetto, the problem is strictly about stopping violence, crime, and vice within the ghetto. Ture and Hamilton make the following point when it comes to the ghetto, “Larger

¹¹ “Recruitment Of Policemen From Minorities Urged”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis Oregon.

society becomes indignant and utters irrelevant cliches about maintaining law and order”.¹² Both are referring to the means by which white people turn the problem into a question of keeping the ghetto under control and come to the conclusion that in order to solve all the problems of the ghetto, crime must be stopped. Moreover, if one is to apply the colony model to the Williams neighborhood it becomes apparent that the goal is to maintain residential segregation and racial isolation of the neighborhood from white neighborhoods. Consequently, police relations within the community are reduced to the subjugation and intimidation of non-whites living in the ghetto.

In concluding, the Williams ghetto is another look at the Northern struggle for decent housing, job opportunities and the right to live where one chooses. Often, the popular solution to the “ghetto problem” is more security and juvenile programs. The blame is laid on those living in the ghetto rather than seeking a solution benefiting all. What is more, the institutions within the ghetto remain in the control of whites, this includes law enforcement agencies. Without control of these agencies, ghettos like the one in Portland and other urban centers are reduced to the subjugation and control of outside powers, creating a vicious cycle of poverty, violence, crime, and increased aggression towards their oppressors.

¹² Kwame Ture and Charles V. Hamilton. *Black Power: The Politics of Liberation in America*, (Vintage House Inc: New York), 1992, pg 160.

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“The Ghetto”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

“Violence In Portland”, 1959-75 Newspaper Clippings. Box 6. Urban League of Portland Records, Oregon State University Archives, Corvallis, Oregon.

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“Portland’s Crime Problem.” Oregon Journal 1959. This article talks about Juvenile gang wars in Portland Oregon and a fatal shooting of a juvenile (juvenile on juvenile shooting). This article argues that crime is everyone’s problem and therefore it is every ones responsibility to prevent crime. More police and man power is needed to put a handle on crime in Portland, even though it is not at as high of levels as other cities such as New York City and Los Angeles, it is a problem nonetheless. There is concern that it will soon be on the rise.

“Negroes must help.” Oregonian 8-28-59. This article talks about at 15 year old boy who shot a classmate. The community needs to come together to help, to prevent such tragedies from occurring. Williams neighborhood has become like “Tombstone” (violent old western cowboy movie). The “good people” need to help to improve the neighborhood and it’s reputation. The issue is being placed completely on non-whites to handle the situation by taking control of their own neighborhood. It is up to the Negro leaders and the “good people” to promote a more lawful climate.

“Ghetto Breeds Vice, Crime.” (In response to “Negroes must help.”) Letter to the editor, Oregonian 9-1-1959. “Negroes must help.” Is not the whole story, the author does agree with the article however but parts are missing. Author (who has been involved in race relations) says that Williams district is a Ghetto, it is overcrowded and substandard, and people are forced to live there because of their race. Ghettos are a breeding place for crime, and it provides an environment where crime is easily committed and tolerated. “Actually the crime situation in the Williams Avenue district is very much the result of community attitudes and even more so the

dismal ignorance on the part of law enforcement officers, in regard to human relations.”

Housing discrimination in the city forces non-whites to live in the ghetto. Author: Wayne Keith

“Hypocrites” Oregonian 9-7-1959. In response to Wayne Keith article (“Ghetto Breeds Vice, Crime”). Author says that Keith is correct about ghettos being a breeding place for crime but his question is: “what creates ghettos?” Ghettos are created by whites, who force all of the negroes to live in a certain area. Whites claim they want equality, but don’t practice it, and continue to push Negroes into the ghetto.

“The Ghetto.” Oregonian August 23, 1959. Williams district is the Negro Ghetto of Portland, crime and vice is becoming out of hand, so bad that Cops are refusing to patrol the area on foot. There needs to be a crackdown and closing off offending establishments and having more patrols in the area, and a firmness shown by city hall and police headquarters. Second, liquor is often involved and liquor stores that have become hangouts for undesirables and hoodlums need to be closed. It is better to scatter and break up the areas, and closing down hangouts will do so.

“B. Mikes Lowdown Looks Mighty Lonely for Albina, Thanks to Earp” Date:

8-31-1959. Oregon Journal. Author William Moyes. The author gives a critique of the article that compared Albina district to TV’s “Tombstone.” He said that this comparison was an understatement. The shootings in Tombstone were civilized and well announced and beside that, it was always safe to walk the streets night or day. The Albina district is not safe, the violence is not civilized and it is being committed by youth, not responsible adults like in Tombstone.

“Astounding and Thoughtless” Letter to the Editor, Oregonian. Date: 8-29-1959. In response to the article “Time for Action.” The suggested shakedown of all known characters is an extreme violation of due process rights. If you (Portland) are trying to maintain your rights, you cannot attack and take away the rights of others (suspected criminals). The actual solution should be increasing job opportunities for negroes and making it possible for blacks to purchase homes outside of the ghetto, by eliminating discriminatory barriers that exist in real-estate.

“Violence In Portland” Oregonian 8-28-1959. *Letter to the editor.* In response to the article “Time for Action.” The city of Portland is no longer safe. The threat of violence and rape are a reality. Police are doing their best, but cannot be everywhere. There is a strong need for more Police, especially those in plain clothes. Crime is growing problem in the North Williams area. Author Elmer M. Golder

“Recruiting Of Policemen From Minorities Urged” Oregonian April 20, 1967. The hiring of Minority police will ease the tension of race relations in Portland in regard to law enforcement interactions with the public.

Oregon Journal

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

C. S. JACKSON, Founder

P. L. JACKSON, Publisher, 1924-1953

MARIA C. JACKSON, Chairman of the Board, 1946-1956

Be calm, be confident, be cheerful and do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

WM. W. KNIGHT, Publisher

ARDEN X. PANGBORN, Editor

The best things are nearest: Light in your eyes, flowers at your feet, duties at your hand, the path of God before you. Then do not grasp at the stars, but do life's common work as it comes, certain that daily duties and daily bread are the sweetest things in life.—Anonymous.

Portland's Crime Problem

The rising tide of juvenile crime, especially in the big Eastern cities like New York and the 9.3 percent increase in major crimes in 1958 over 1957, as detailed in the uniform crime reports to the FBI, are causing widespread concern throughout the country, including Portland.

The juvenile gang wars in New York, resulting in four recent murders, coupled with isolated juvenile killings such as the Wilbur Denson-David Heads case in Portland, are receiving widespread publicity. And they are causing governors, police chiefs, the FBI and interested citizens' groups to reexamine the causes of these increases and to seek better remedial action, ranging from new educational programs to better policing down to the beat level.

Portland, which generally has a less alarming crime record than other major cities, especially in the major crime classifications, has its own problems nevertheless.

There has been a gradual but noticeable increase in arrests of persons under 18.

This is due in part to a better functioning juvenile division and the fact that all Portland police have been made juvenile officers in effect. This means more attention to the juvenile problem and better crime reporting. Crimes in the N Williams avenue area, where public attention has been focused since the recent fatal shooting of a juvenile by a juvenile, have been given more attention since last fall when additional police were assigned to the area. But Police Chief Hilbruner reports the police are getting better cooperation from the citizens of that section. And crimes reported by census tracts are disclosing that other areas, particularly the lower

West Side, actually have a higher felony and misdemeanor rate than does the N Williams avenue area.

Assignment of more police to N Williams avenue district on a 24-hour beat basis has accentuated the police department's manpower problem. We're actually trying to cope with an increased crime rate, both adult and juvenile, with 26 fewer policemen than we had two years ago when the force was cut by 38. Only 12 of these 38 men were restored to the department. This, plus ever-increasing traffic duties, creates a serious problem.

Fortunately Portland does not have the organized gang problem the police and juvenile authorities encounter in New York, Los Angeles and other major cities.

Occasionally loosely knit groups of youthful hoodlums get together on vandalism, beatups, car thefts and such crimes. But we have no youthful "Draculas," as does New York, and none of the organized teenage territorial wars and crime waves such as those now being publicized there. Not yet, anyway.

No one in the police or social service fields has a ready answer to the juvenile crime increase problem locally or nationally. Its causes are legion, its roots run deep and dark, as do the causes of the alarming increase in major crimes by adults.

We can, however, give this dual problem the serious attention it deserves. We can see to it that our police forces aren't starved for manpower. We can apply the most modern educational and corrective methods we have been able to devise—in our homes, schools, churches, social service organizations and correctional institutions. That's because crime is everybody's problem and everybody's responsibility.

Violence in Portland

To the Editor: Your editorial "Time For Action" certainly was good and timely.

It has been that Portland was a peaceful, safe, community where a law-abiding citizen could be abroad in almost any district at almost any hour of the day or night without fear of bodily harm. Nowadays this is not a city of safety. Attacks upon little girls, teen-age girls and women of most any age; cases of rape and attempted rape, beat-ups of young boys and a lot of other crimes are being committed by gangs. If they are centered around the Williams Ave. area (the old Albina district) they surely have branched out to include all of Portland and suburbs.

Harm also comes to those who "tell on them" or become witnesses against such criminals, sooner or later.

True, it is time for action, and we do know that the police are doing their best under the present set-up and are very eager to get such criminals, but policemen cannot be everywhere in the city and the danger exists wherever no officer of the law is close at hand. We need more plain clothes police who are physically able to contend with any such emergency—men who can very definitely use their heads and are alert. We also need a good backing up of the police officers when such evildoers land in court. It also would be well to publish the names of all such criminals when caught, if that person is more than 14 years old.

This is a serious trend against public safety and something must be done and done very soon to make Portland just as safe for people as it has been in the past. Let us hope and pray for a marked improvement.

ELMER M. GOLDER.
3035 SE Ankeny St.

Negroes Must Help

The cold-blooded shooting of a Portland Negro boy by a 15-year-old schoolmate has shocked the community into the realization that lawlessness in the Williams Avenue district has become a serious problem that must be dealt with promptly lest it become insoluble, as it has in many other large cities. District Attorney Charles E. Raymond summed up the situation aptly when he pointed out that while the neighborhood has many fine, law-abiding residents, it also has many incorrigibles who make it "almost like a 'Tombstone Territory' on television."

This is not a situation which can be remedied by the district attorney or the courts or the police alone, although a more vigorous law enforcement policy in this vicinity certainly should be the first step. The "good people" Mr. Raymond mentions also must help if the neighborhood is to improve its reputation.

Portland and Oregon have taken great steps toward the elimination of racial bias through laws and through the molding of public opinion by various anti-discrimination groups. Negroes now are protected by statute in their rights to hold jobs, patronize public entertainment and service facilities, and buy homes wherever they choose to live. Many white people have worked hard to

help the non-whites achieve these social gains. But this is a two-way street. It is up to the non-whites to live up to the first-class citizenship the law now guarantees for them.

If Portland Negro leaders will use their influence, in cooperation with the police and the courts, they can do much to cut down the incidence of hoodlumism in the non-white population and protect the social gains that required so much hard work to win.

Ghetto Breeds Vice, Crime

To the Editor: I have read with interest your editorial urging Negro leaders and the decent citizens of the Williams Avenue district, to assume the leadership in promoting a more lawful climate in that area and to protect the social gains, which have been hard won during the past several years. In general I agree with the remarks of the editorial. It does not, however, tell the whole story and the story needs to be told.

As one who has, until recently, lived in the Williams Avenue district for several years, and who has been active in the field of race relations for many years, I believe I can speak with modest authority.

The Williams Avenue district is a ghetto. In spite of the progress that has been made through legislation and other means, this area has become an overcrowded, sub-standard group of dwellings in which people are forced to live because of their race.

Ghettos have long been notorious breeding places for vice and crime. When human beings are deprived of their natural dignity and treated like animals, some of them will resort to animal conduct. When people know, in spite of laws and social progress, that they are not welcome in many areas of the community and in many places of employment, they will react with justifiable resentment. Among the unstable or immoral element, this resentment will often manifest itself in the form of criminal activity. This isn't something new; it is as old as civilization. This isn't a condition peculiar to Portland; it exists wherever discrimination against racial or religious minorities shows its ugly face.

Actually the crime situation in the Williams Avenue district is very much the result of community attitudes and even more so the dismal ignorance on the part of law enforcement officers, in regard to human relations.

Allow me to cite a couple of examples: Recently a police officer acquaintance of mine, complained bitterly about the lack of cooperation on the part of the citizenry whenever a crime is being investigated in that area. I felt obliged to point out that this attitude is born of a long history of mis-handling and racial intolerance on the part of police officers toward Negroes. Rightly or wrongly it is a fact that many Negroes look upon police officers with fear and suspicion. A good look at the history of the Deep South will show where all this began.

Also, anyone who has lived very long in that part of the

city, knows that for years, under various administrations, many vice spots have been tolerated, with the understanding that they would keep the Negroes "in their own part of town." Actually I think the present administration is making a more determined effort to clean up this situation than heretofore, but the fact remains that prostitution and gambling is still widespread throughout the area. Ask any policeman (if you can find one who will talk), ask any sharp newspaper reporter or cab driver; but above all ask the decent people who are forced to live in that environment, and they will tell you, with resignation, that this is the way it has been for years in the Williams Avenue district.

Another example: A friend of mine, who recently returned to his home town of Portland, after having obtained a master's degree at a mid-western university, tells me how he and his new bride searched for several weeks to find an apartment in a good neighborhood. In spite of hundreds of "For Rent" signs, throughout the city, the apartments were always "just taken," when the landlord discovered the racial nature of the applicants. My friend and his wife finally returned, in disgust, to the Williams Avenue district and rented an apartment in a sub-standard dwelling.

I don't need anyone to describe for me the progress that has been made in Oregon, during recent years. I am well aware of this progress and I am proud of it. Every sign points to better days, and that is good. I am merely trying to point out that the struggle for racial equality is not nearly over.

Certainly the laws must be enforced. Assuredly we must continue to legislate against injustice. Ultimately, however, we must realize that justice is the offspring of charity, which is love. The worst ghettos in the world exist in the hearts and minds of men. When we begin to accept men as our brothers, not because laws say we must, but because we "hunger and thirst after justice," then and then only will the Williams Avenue district and its counterparts everywhere, disappear. Justice, without love, is not true because to be truly just we must truly love.

WAYNE KEITH,
615 NW 18th Ave.

REGISTER-GUARD August 23, 1959

The Ghetto Again

The Oregonian is alarmed, as well it should be, over the growing problems of vice and crime in the "Williams Ave. District," which is unfortunately also Portland's Negro ghetto. It's getting so tough in there, the Oregonian says, that the cops refuse to patrol it on foot.

So comes civilization to Portland, as it came earlier to New York, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. Wherever non-whites are forced to live in segregated districts of sub-standard housing, Harlem-like hoodlums follows. From our end of the valley it appears that two courses of action are called for.

First, there should be a crackdown, a closing of offending establishments, a beefing up of patrols in the area, and a general demonstration of firmness from city hall and police headquarters.

Second, the source of much of the trouble should be recognized. Liquor is usually involved. The liquor commission has the power to suspend licenses, including beer licenses, in cases where an establishment is a known hang-out for undesirables. This power should be used sweepingly. No more licenses should be granted in the area until these old neighborhoods calm down.

Both these courses of action will serve to break up the area. Crime will continue, but it will be dissipated over a larger area. As it is dissipated, it will decrease. Crime and vice feed upon themselves. If a hundred hoodlums are in one block, there will be more trouble than if the same hundred are scattered over the whole town. Together, they encourage one another.

White property owners cannot be absolved of blame, if they permit their over-priced rental units to be used as centers of vice. Fifty years ago Portland had some success with its "tin plate law" which required establishments to post, conspicuously, the name of the person who owned the property. Property owners began taking a keener interest in what was happening on days other than the ones when the rent was due.

An aroused citizenry can usually take care of problems like the one Portland faces on Williams Ave. The citizenry should be aroused, in Portland and elsewhere in Oregon, for Portland's problem has overtones that disturb us all.

Urban League Staff

Gentlemen:

I thought the contents of this editorial would

be of interest to you particularly, at this time

when this matter is causing so much stir

Mark On

RECEIVED
AUG 28 1959
URBAN LEAGUE OF PORTLAND

Lonely for Albina, Thanks to Earp

By William Moyes

AS OF the moment, Charley Raymond, the DA, may be correct in comparing the old Albina district to TV's Tombstone territory. But come next month that comparison will no longer be valid, for Wyatt Earp is moving this fall from Dodge City to do a clean up job on Tombstone.

After some hard work with his Buntline special, old Earp will have the city as clean as a TV detergent commercial and Charley will be left with no place evil enough to compare his Albina district to.

★ ★ ★
COME TO think of it, his comparison was a bit of understatement . . . for Tombstone territory as shown on the picture tube last season conducted its shootings in a fairly civilized manner.

Whenever a shootout was to take place, bystanders were always warned to scam off the streets and take cover. Also the parties who did the shootings were responsible adults, not teenagers.

★ ★ ★
EXCEPT during shootouts, it was always safe to walk the streets of Tombstone day or night . . . which is more than can be said of the Albina territory where the racket made by fusillades of shots fired by teenagers inviting each other out to play is drowned out by the pockat-pock of clubs on old ladies' noggins.

As for the quieter, more subdued forms of killing, Albina and Tombstone were, and are, about even. Extemporaneous surgery is practiced in both places when guns are not handy. The only difference is in the instru-

ments used by the amateur surgeons—hunting knives being thrown during brawls in one place while the denizens of the other favor flick knives and straight-edges.

★ ★ ★

SOON as he cleans

Violence in Portland

To the Editor: Your editorial "Time For Action" certainly was good and timely.

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ELMER M. GOLDER,
3035 SE Ankeny St.

'Hypocrites'

To the Editor: Wayne Keith is correct in his statement that ghettos breed vice and crime. But what creates ghettos? Ghettos are created by the refusal of people to mix socially with people who have a different religion, skin-color, etc., etc. Human beings are by nature gregarious. They must mingle with other humans to be happy (except those who like dogs best).

Those who are in the minority and are not accepted gradually gravitate toward each other and presto, a ghetto is created—like volcano after an earthquake.

We whites in the North are hypocrites. We talk equality but do not practice it! Even our so-called liberal and idealistic leaders in both parties do not practice it!

NICHOLAS GRANET,
4154 SW Tualatin Ave.

Grand Jury Scores Sin Sector

A part of the lower N Williams avenue district is a morals "cancer in our society which can be alleviated," the Multnomah county grand jury has reported.

The jury noted that 24 of the cases presented to it involved morals. This is 35.8 percent of the total cases considered by the March term jury.

"Nineteen, or 79 percent of the total, originated in one particular district, and 81 percent of the defendants involved in morals were from this district," the jury report said in an obvious reference to the "sin section."

THE GRAND JURY also said that runaways from the Hillcrest school for girls at Salem are involved in most of the morals cases it investigated.

"Certain inmates repeatedly run away and seek refuge in an unwholesome environment," the grand jury said in another obvious reference to that part of the N Williams district near Russell street.

"Self tattooing and other acts by inmates of this institution certainly indicates that it is in the best interests of our community and state to provide the necessary funds and adequate personnel to help alleviate this deplorable situation," the jury declared.

"It is regrettable that apparent lack of an adequate staff and sufficient budget has made it impossible for this institution to properly carry out its desired goal of rehabilitation of all its inmates."

THE JURY commended law enforcement authorities for their work in the district, but added, "there is so much more to be done."

About 30 men have been indicted since the probe began, and about 10-12 girls are being held as material witnesses for docketed trials.

Four of the men have pleaded guilty and another was found guilty this week after a jury trial.

One person has been indicted under the Mann act, which makes it a federal offense to transport girls across state lines for immoral purposes.

Journal 8-31-59.

B. Mike's Lowdown Looks Mighty Lonely for Albina, Thanks to Earp

By William Moyes

AS OF the moment, Charley Raymond, the DA, may be correct in comparing the old Albina district to TV's Tombstone territory. But come next month that comparison will no longer be valid, for Wyatt Earp is moving this fall from Dodge City to do a clean up job on Tombstone.

After some hard work with his Buntline special, old Earp will have the city as clean as a TV detergent commercial and Charley will be left with no place evil enough to compare his Albina district to.

★ ★ ★
COME TO think of it, his comparison was a bit of understatement... for Tombstone territory as shown on the picture tube last season conducted its shootings in a fairly civilized manner.

Whenever a shootout was to take place, bystanders were always warned to scam off the streets and take cover. Also the parties who did the shootings were responsible adults, not teenagers.

★ ★ ★
EXCEPT during shootouts, it was always safe to walk the streets of Tombstone day or night... which is more than can be said of the Albina territory where the racket made by fusillades of shots fired by teenagers inviting each other out to play is drowned out by the pockata-pock of clubs on old ladies' noggins.

As for the quieter, more subdued forms of killing, Albina and Tombstone were, and are, about even. Extemporaneous surgery is practiced in both places when guns are not handy. The only difference is in the instru-

ments used by the amateur surgeons—hunting knives being thrown during brawls in one place while the denizens of the other favor flick knives and straight-edges.

★ ★ ★

—/ he /

Violence in Portland

To the Editor: Your editorial "Time For Action" certainly was good and timely.

It has been that Portland was a peaceful, safe, community where a law-abiding citizen could be abroad in almost any district at almost any hour of the day or night without fear of bodily harm. Nowadays this is not a city of safety. Attacks upon little girls, teen-age girls and women of most any age; cases of rape and attempted rape, beat-ups of young boys and a lot of other crimes are being committed by gangs. If they are centered around the Williams Ave. area (the old Albina district) they surely have branched out to include all of Portland and suburbs.

Harm also comes to those who "tell on them" or become witnesses against such criminals, sooner or later.

True, it is time for action, and we do know that the police are doing their best under the present set-up and are very eager to get such criminals, but policemen cannot be everywhere in the city and the danger exists wherever no officer of the law is close at hand. We need more plain clothes police who are physically able to contend with any such emergency—men who can very definitely use their heads and are alert. We also need a good backing up of the police officers when such evildoers land in court. It also would be well to publish the names of all such criminals when caught, if that person is more than 14 years old.

This is a serious trend against public safety and something must be done and done very soon to make Portland just as safe for people as it has been in the past. Let us hope and pray for a marked improvement.

ELMER M. GOLDER,
3035 SE Ankeny St.

'Hypocrites'

To the Editor: Wayne Keith is correct in his statement that ghettos breed vice and crime. But what creates ghettos? Ghettos are created by the refusal of people to mix socially with people who have a different religion, skin-color, etc., etc. Human beings are by nature gregarious. They must mingle with other humans to be happy (except those who like dogs best).

Those who are in the minority and are not accepted gradually gravitate toward each other and presto, a ghetto is created—like volcano after an earthquake.

We whites in the North are hypocrites. We talk equality but do not practice it! Even our so-called liberal and idealistic leaders in both parties do not practice it!

NICHOLAS GRANET,
4154 SW Tualatin Ave.

Grand Jury Scores Sin Sector

A part of the lower N Williams avenue district is a morals "cancer in our society which can be alleviated," the Multnomah county grand jury has reported.

The jury noted that 24 of the cases presented to it involved morals. This is 35.8 percent of the total cases considered by the March term jury.

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Man Says Police Invite Fight, Lose Toss

A man recently arrested on charges of disorderly conduct and interfering with an arresting officer told the Oregonian Tuesday that one of the arresting officers challenged him to a fight after he had been arrested, that he accepted "because he didn't want to chicken out," and was able to throw the officer over his head and to the ground before other officers intervened.

The officer, Ed Lesowske, could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

The arrested man, Julius Strong, 22, 5021 N. Williams Ave., said he and another man were near the Multnomah Hotel when they saw Lesowske and Officer Henry Brown with a handcuffed prisoner near a police call box. He said Lesowske was holding the man from behind and Brown was striking him in the stomach.

Treatment Protested

He said that he and John B. Hepburn, 32, 3235 N. Gantenbein Ave., shouted at the officers protesting the brutal treatment, and that Brown crossed the street telling him (Strong) that he was under arrest. Strong said that both he and Hepburn faced the disorderly and interfering charges, and that it was a short time later when Lesowske challenged him, stating that he would take off his gun for the match.

Although not available for Tuesday comment, reports submitted by Lesowske and Brown at the time of the Saturday arrest were to the following effect.

They said they were called to the Viking Club restaurant at W. 3rd Ave. and Burnside St. to remove Horace B. Burton, 31, 130 W. Burnside St.

Profanity Charged

They said Burton resisted, that he was extremely profane, that they had to use force to remove him from the establish-

ment, and that he fought them all the way to the call box near SW Ankeny St. and 4th Ave.

They said they had him handcuffed and were waiting for the paddy wagon when Hepburn and Strong came out of the Multnomah Hotel employee's entrance and began cursing them, and asking why they didn't take off their guns and come over and fight them.

Brown said when he went across the street to place them under arrest, Strong began fighting and Hepburn ran. The latter was found waiting at the police station when the other prisoners arrived and was cited with them.

Strong and Hepburn said Tuesday they did not swear at the officers and did not invite them across the street. They said their activity was con-

finied to hollering and protesting the treatment of the prisoner.

Brown and Lesowski added that the yelling and cursing by Strong and Hepburn attracted a large crowd, and that both men tried to get the crowd to help them free the prisoner, Burton, who was booked on charges of drunk and disorderly conduct.

Strong and Hepburn are now

free on bail, and said they have retained an attorney to defend them in their Aug. 28 court appearance.

Secretary Of State Tours Area Of Disturbances

By ANDREW MERSHON

Staff Writer, The Oregonian

Oregon Secretary of State Clay Myers, who delivered an address on racial outbreaks to the B'nai B'rith Sunday night when vandalism broke out in the Albina area, toured the area early Monday.

With Myers on the tour were Police Inspector Frank Springer and Portland Human Relations Commission member Fred Rosenbaum.

"This could have been a lot worse," Myers told Springer as they drove NE Union Avenue. The street had been the scene of some vandalism and was littered with glass from broken store fronts and smashed headlights.

"You know, we've kept our doors open here . . . the mayor, our office, the district attorney, everybody has been available to talk with anybody that had anything to say. You think it won't, you hope it won't, but it happens," said Rosenbaum.

Rosenbaum said he did not believe the Negro uprising was all due to outside agitation. "There are some of our local people who just wanted to show us that it could happen here," he said.

Springer said the best source of police information during and before the outbreak was from "our responsible Negro citizens."

The first incident occurred late Sunday afternoon when a fire bomb was thrown into the Lampus Store on NE Union Avenue.

Myers was highly complimentary to East Precinct Capt. Wayne Sullivan on the way his forces handled the disturbance. "It looks like you did an excellent job out there," he said.

Mayor Aides Split Duties

Mayor Terry D. Schrunk sat out much of Monday night's action at his north Portland home, his office said.

The mayor stayed at City Hall until about 7:30 p.m., then went home to keep in touch with the situation on his own police radio.

From his home he issued the 8 p.m. order that Irving Park was to be cleared, which led to the largest roundup of vandals of the evening.

Schrunk's chief administrative assistant, Howard Traver, was loosely attached to the City Hall office. He was in and out of meetings throughout the evening.

Assistant David Dockham manned the command post radio in the mayor's office.

Keith Jones, Schrunk's assistant for police affairs, was in the Albina area helping police by coordinating their activities with pacification efforts by Albina organizations.

At 10:30 p.m. Jones was in conference with an area baseball team, the Black Panthers, who assisted officers in clearing the park.

Gasoline Bomb Ban OK'd Here

An ordinance prohibiting the possession of fire bombs was to be passed by Portland's City Council late Thursday.

The measure also prohibits the throwing of any object, including pop bottles, that are "capable when hurled of inflicting injury or damage."

DURING THIS week's racial disturbance, persons apprehended for fire bombing or bottle throwing generally have been charged with disturbing the peace or littering the street with glass.

"This new ordinance is more specific and recommended by the city attorney," Mayor Terry Schrunk explained Wednesday in getting assurance from the council, at an informal session, that the commissioners would adopt the measure Thursday.

Fire bombs are defined in the document as "any portable container with gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner or other flammable liquid or substance therein, and having an integral wick or similar device capable of being ignited or detonated."

"IT IS UNLAWFUL," the measure details, "for any person to possess or have under his control a fire bomb on any street or in any public place."

It will also be unlawful, under the proposed law, "for any person on a street or in a public place wilfully to throw, or to project by any means, an explosive, fire bomb, or any object that is capable when hurled of inflicting injury to a person or damage . . . to any persons, vehicle or building."

A reward for information leading to arrest and conviction for violation of the prohibitions will be, the proposed ordinance prescribes, \$100 or three times the amount of actual damage caused, whichever is less, if the violation damaged property only and did not involve use of an explosive or fire bomb.

January 15, 1929



April 4, 1968

I HAVE A DREAM

I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation.

Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves, who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

But one hundred years later, the Negro is still not free. One hundred years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination. One hundred years later, the Negro lives on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity. One hundred years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself an exile in his own land. So we have come here today to dramatize a shameful condition.

In a sense we've come to our nation's Capitol to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was a promise that all men -- yes, Black men as well as white men -- would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note insofar as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked "insufficient funds". But we refuse to believe that the bank of justice is bankrupt. We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. So we've come to cash this check -- a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice. We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of NOW. This tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of Democracy. Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time to make justice a reality for all of God's children.

It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality. Nineteen sixty-three is not an end, but a beginning. Those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

But that is something that I must say to my people who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred.

We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone.

And as we walk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back. There are those who ask the devotees of civil rights, "When will you be satisfied?" We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality. We can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities. We cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from a smaller ghetto to a larger one. We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating "For Whites Only". We cannot be satisfied as long as a Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and a Negro in New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive.

Go back to Mississippi, go back to Alabama, go back to South Carolina, go back to Georgia, go back to Louisiana, go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream.

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the

sons of former slaves and the sons of former slaveowners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood; I have a dream --

That one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice; I have a dream --

That my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but the content of their character; I have a dream today.

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers; I have a dream today --

I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made smooth and crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.

This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

This will be the day... This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring"; and if America is to be a great nation, this must become true.

So let freedom ring -- from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire, let freedom ring; from the mighty mountains of New York, let freedom ring -- from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania!

Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado!

Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California!

But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia!

Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee!

Let freedom ring from every hill and mole hill of Mississippi.

From every mountainside, let freedom ring, and when this happens --

When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God almighty, we are free at last!"



—The People's

Astounding and Thoughtless

To the Editor: This is in reply to the suggested line of activity proposed in your recent editorial entitled, "Time for Action," dealing with the attacks occurring in the Williams Avenue district.

I believe your suggestion for a "shakedown" of all known "characters" is both astonishing and thoughtless. It is astonishing in its disregard for due process of law and thoughtless in that the scheme would not ameliorate the situation at all.

If the majority of Portland's citizens is concerned about its rights, it cannot re-establish them by derogating the rights of others, even those of alleged criminals. Rather it must do something towards eliminating the Negro ghetto, improving job opportunities for Negroes so they will have the wherewithal for purchasing homes in other areas, and equally important, eliminating the discriminatory barriers erected by some real estate persons in and around Portland. The authorities would do well to investigate, too, steps such as the formation of neighborhood social clubs undertaken by their counterparts in other metropolitan centers. We need, in addition, a President who will not veto a housing bill, part of which is directed towards slum clearance.

ELWOOD TAUB, Director,
Research and Education,
International Woodworkers
of America,
1622 N. Lombard St.

Recruiting Of Policemen From Minorities Urged

A drive to recruit policemen in the Portland area from racial minority groups was urged Wednesday by Multnomah County Dist. Atty. George Van Hoomissen.

Van Hoomissen, speaking to the Albina Neighborhood

Council, said young men and women between 17 and 21 years old could be appointed to serve on the police force part-time while working toward a college degree. Such trainees, he said, would have limited enforcement powers and would not carry arms but their duties would not be limited to clerical or errand-running tasks.

The training program, with which the district attorney hopes to improve communications between the police and minority youths, might qualify for federal assistance under the Law Enforcement Assistance Act or the Safe Streets and Crime Control Act of 1967.

He said his recommendation for instituting the program by the fall of 1967 will be submitted to Chief of Police Donald I. McNamara and Byron H. Shields, interim county sheriff, in the near future.

Intensive effort to recruit minority group policemen, he feels, is necessary to solve conflicts between the police and the community. Van Hoomissen said citizens' advisory committees should meet regularly with police officials to this end.

THE OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 1967

Albina Melee Suspect Granted Delay In Trial

One of the Sunday night not guilty to disorderly conduct charges and their trial was set for Aug. 10. Charges delay in Municipal Court, of possession of a fire bomb which faces a busy period and carrying a concealed weapon against White were dismissed.

A trial date of Aug. 16 was set for Anthony Perz's, 27, of 606 N. Fargo St., charged with disorderly conduct.

Employed Youth Shun Trouble

Only 4 of 430 youths enrolled in the in-school Neighborhood Youth Corps were arrested during the recent civil disturbances in Albina, the coordinator of the program said Wednesday.

"I think this proves the worth of the program, and that these kids will work and stay out of trouble if they're given the opportunity," the coordinator, Joel Sappenfield, added.

The in-school Neighborhood Youth Corps, a part of the war on poverty, gives part-time and summer employment to youths from low-income families to enable them to continue their education. Sappenfield said the youths are working in dozens of jobs, including a special nursing education program at the University of Portland and the computer department at Portland police headquarters.

A COURT appearance was scheduled Aug. 9 for Lawrence Eugene McCallister, 18, of 4126 NE Garfield Ave., charged with resisting arrest.

Larry Earl Jackson, 18, of 3522 N. Michigan Ave., Roger Pete Sanders, 18, of 517 NE Knott St., and Harold Emanuel White, 19, of 3964 N. Massachusetts Ave., all pleaded

Police Plan Works Well In Neutralizing Disorder

By JOHN GUERNSEY
Staff Writer, The Oregonian

The smooth and effective police work which Sunday night neutralized the Albina disturbance with a minimum of damage and injuries did not just happen — it was well planned and moved into operation with the precision of a watch.

Portland Police Chief Donald McNamara moved 200 city officers into the disturbance area when the first signs of trouble developed, and Multnomah County and state police forces beefed up their patrol activity in outlying areas of the city which were drained of regularly assigned Portland police.

McNamara also had an additional 200 Portland officers standing by, if it proved necessary to move them into Albina.

"We had developed this mutual aid program some time ago, and I'm very pleased with the way it worked out," the chief added.

The Multnomah County Department of Public Safety moved in 16 patrol cars to cover outlying areas which Portland police vacated, and the Oregon State Police, which established temporary headquarters at the Portland Air Base, strengthened their regular traffic patrols.

McNamara said the plan also called for the county police to handle arrest booking procedures and transportation of prisoners. The city, however, was able to set up a temporary police booking operation in the Memorial Coliseum to handle the approximately 47 adult and juvenile arrests which were made.

A spokesman for the county office said outlying towns also played a key role in the cooperative police plan, by expanding their patrols to cover county areas which were vacated when the sheriff moved out cars to cover in the city.

The sheriff's reserves also moved into action and covered some of the outlying areas with radio-equipped cars.

The plan called for the city police forces to contain the action, and to call in county police, state police or the National Guard—in that order if necessary, explained State Police Superintendent Holly Holcomb. "We had an adequate number of state police ready if necessary," he said.

John H. Williams, Portland special agent in charge for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said "we have no jurisdiction in the thing at this point, but our investigative facilities are available to any agency which wants them or needs them."

He said the FBI is checking out numerous reports that outside agitators were brought in to trigger the Albina disturbance, "but as yet we have been able to confirm none of the reports."

Walter Martin, Municipal Court attorney with the city attorney's office, said Tuesday most of the 29 adults arrested are still in jail under \$500 bail. The charges range from disorderly conduct, drunk and carrying assembled firearms. Most are expected to have court hearings Aug. 8.

The 18 juveniles who were taken into custody were scheduled for Tuesday hearings in the Multnomah juvenile court.