

Portland Challenger

An Independent Newspaper

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Wrong Philosophy

The referendum movement started by a group of Portland citizens in the hope of nullifying the civil rights act passed by the 1953 Oregon legislature warns the democratic-thinking American of the ever present "home danger" to his freedom loving life. It puts him on guard to protect the right of the individual.

Led by Rev. Elbert D. Reddick, rector of an Episcopal church, a group called the "Civil Freedom Committee" professes their aim in filing the referendum is to "maintain the right of freedom of choice in association."

How anyone can profess to protect this right of the individual by regulating the choice according to one's race is beyond the reasoning of this newspaper. Any person has the right to choose his own associates, it is up to him whether he wants to base this choice on race or religion. But any time a place is licensed to serve the public, it is dedicated to do so. If the presence of different races hinders the enjoyment of bigoted patrons, then they most certainly have the freedom to leave.

When an individual attempts to use the word freedom to describe acts of prejudices that heap the many humiliating incidences on non-white Americans such as restrictions to public swimming pools, restaurants, theatres, hotels and places of amusements, he has lost control of logic and is attempting a twist of the interpretation of the Bill of Rights to satisfy his ignorant hunger for race superiority. He is lowering in rank and dignity a word that is symbolic to the word America.

That the leader of this group is a minister is sad indeed. It is in religion that the majority of our principles are founded. For a preacher of God's word to sanction overt acts of discrimination based on color presents a challenge to the American church.

This fuzzy logic on the part of Rev. Mr. Reddick and his cohorts in attempting to make it a "civil right" to deny rights contradicts the very essence of the philosophy of the Bill of Rights.

For the benefit of all concerned it will do well for Rev. Mr. Reddick and all those who follow his reasoning to think of the international danger of such a philosophy. For if the people of Oregon choose to be exclusive on racial or religious lines, they will find themselves to be a perilously minority in a hostile world. Such a philosophy is morally wrong and has no justification whatsoever.

Youth Shows Way

What better proof of democracy and the worth of the individual than that shown by young people in the Portland area recently? Right on the heels of Jefferson high school's election of a Negro student body president for the fall term comes the elective popular vote of a Negro May Queen at Clark junior college in Vancouver, Washington.

During the same week, students at Washington high school in Portland came close to nominating an attractive Negro girl for Rose Festival Princess. Miss Thelma Graham was the choice of Clark students and Miss Adalene Olden was one of six finalists for Princess honors at Washington.

Such eventful happenings on the part of young America certainly justifies the democratic teachings and preachings that come with free-thinking people.

Once again the fallacy that color makes a "difference" is proven wrong. Here is vivid proof that democracy works and better yet, proof of how it should work. Give the individual the opportunity to make his own choice and democracy pays off in a big way.

Let those who oppose the right of the individual to make his own friendly ties take note of the actions of these young people. These students are striving to live democracy and prove to their managers that there is no such thing as "natural race association."

It is a wonderful thing to watch, this action on the part of young America. Let's hope that home foes of democracy take heed of these actions, admit their obvious selfishness and do away with their bigoted feelings.

Group Discusses Civil Rights Law

Five points were emphasized by judges at the May 24 meeting of the Vancouver National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Judges reiterated the following points as important factors in making the Washington civil rights law workable:

1. Participate actively in community life; social contacts tend to reduce tension and help to change ideas and policies of individuals and groups.

2. New people can be invited to join the Vancouver branch of the NAACP.

3. Keep aware of what is going on in the community and what can be done about it.

4. Take advantage of facilities of public accommodation; in the event that discrimination occurs, immediate reports should be made and action taken through proper channels.

Appearances Important

5. Maintenance of proper maintenance of resident and personal appearance is important.

The five points were the results of a "surprise" meeting in which the audience was organized into several small groups. Fifteen to twenty minutes were given to discussions by the various groups on "How We Can Implement Our Civil Rights Laws".

Each group selected a reporter to present its findings. The reporters formed a panel and gave summaries which were discussed pro and con by the panel and audience.

OACW to Hold Annual Confab

The Oregon Association of Colored Women will hold their 36th annual convention May 28 and 29, at the Williams avenue branch of the YWCA. Activities of 16 club members will be given and new officers will be elected.

At 2 p.m. Thursday Mrs. Margaret Sharpe will speak on "Community Responsibilities."

An exhibit by the arts and crafts department and a talent show by the young people's department will be given. The public is invited to this program.

Fashion Show Slated

An election of officers will be held Friday.

"A Day With Fashions" is the theme of the annual fashion show given by the arts and crafts department. The program is to be given at Holladay school Friday, May 29, at 7:30 p.m. At this session cups and trophies for the art exhibit will be awarded.

Retiring president of the organization is Mrs. Ulysses G. Plummer, Jr.

Y to Sponsor Camp, Harvest

The North Branch YMCA, located at 120 NE Russell street, is sponsoring a combination harvest and day camp for boys 11 through 15 years of age. The session begins June 15 and ends July 17.

Campers will spend part of each day picking berries and part time engaged in regular camp activities. The campers will have an opportunity to earn money during the harvest portion of the day.

Total cost of this camp session is \$12. There is a registration fee of \$4. The number of boys is limited and it is advisable to contact the North branch immediately, according to Winston Rogers, program chairman. Those interested are urged to call GA 0017.

News In Brief

By William Wright
Challenger Staff Writer

Dave Mann, former Oregon State football player, and Miss Geraldine Shirley, 18-year-old Portland girl, were recently married in Oakland. Miss Shirley is a former student at Portland State college. Mann is now playing for the Oakland Oaks, Pacific Coast league baseball team. While at Oregon State he gained wide recognition as a football star and was touted by many as one of the top grid prospects to hit the Orange campus.

Yvonne Johnson First in Contest

Miss Yvonne Johnson of Yakima, Washington, won the annual district oratorical contest sponsored by the Elks in Yakima Sunday. Miss Johnson now journeys to San Diego, California, where she will compete for regional honors.

The Portland winner, Miss Ce Etta Medlock, Washington high school senior and sponsored by Miss Anna Morrison, was second.

Other contestants in the Portland contest were Miss Mildred Robinson, Jefferson; Lamurel Foster, Washington; Miss Aline Albert, Jefferson; James Acreneaux, Washington, and Benney Dean, Washington, who came in second.

Judges for the Portland contest were Mrs. Opal Hamilton, speech teacher at Grant high school; Mrs. Edith Green, former candidate for secretary of state, and E. Shelton Hill, industrial secretary of the Urban League of Portland.

Portlanders Attend

The Portland committee consisted of Thomas Vickers, exalted ruler of Billy Webb Lodge; Don Strahan, local director; Mrs. Minnie Payne, local directress; Miss Morrison, Mrs. Mable Neal and Mrs. A. L. Randolph, Dt. Ruler.

At the Yakima conclave, Portland was awarded the convention site for next year and a past Daughter Ruler of Portland, Loretta Martin, was elected feature queen.

Portlander Frank McIntosh was reelected president of the Northwest States association. Three other Portland Elks were reelected to offices they held last year. They were Vickers, Northwest director of education; Oliver E. Smith, recording secretary, and Herbert Lewis, inner guard.

Nineteen delegates attended the Yakima conference. Other cities with representatives were Billings, Montana; Pasco, Bremerton, Tacoma, Seattle and Yakima, Washington.

Fun Classes Due Youngsters at Y

"Accracosis" is the new word members of the Williams avenue branch of the YWCA have dreamed up for all the fun in store for girls who are seventh and eighth graders—or prospective seventh and eighth graders—who will be taking classes starting at the branch June 29. The classes will end August 18.

The classes, scheduled for Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, will be in acting, crafts, cooking, sewing, singing and swimming. Registration fees for the activity programs are \$1.00.

Girls interested may register any Tuesday afternoon between 3 and 5:30 p.m. at the Williams avenue Y, or any day at the main branch of the YWCA, 834 SW Broadway. Registration closes June 1.

Each session will be from 3 to 5 p.m., except cooking which is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mrs. Ila Hamilton is now working as co-advisor with J. Sidney Bowman to the Williams avenue coed group which meets Thursday evenings at the branch.



Dave Mann
Ex-grinder marries Portlander

Mrs. Washington is survived by a daughter, Betty Jean Searcy; sisters, Mrs. Ruby Deiz, Mrs. Minnie M. Smith, Mrs. Mable Kanada; and brothers Laurence, George, Eddie and Vernon Butler.

Mrs. Obbie Hardy, in Oakland for the past few weeks visiting her ill mother, Mrs. Ethel Chase, is expected home next week.

About 200 guests attended the second annual Alpha Phi Alpha spring formal given by Epsilon Zeta Lambda chapter at Holy Rosary hall last Friday night. The hall was beautifully decorated in the black and gold colors of the fraternity.

Tables lined both sides of the spacious dance floor and Alpha pledges served the famed "Pruitt Punch" to guests. Music was furnished by Bob Bradford and group.

Bethelite Group Presents Pianist

Jules Haywood, an international concert pianist, gave a recital, under the auspices of the Bethelite club of Bethel AME church Sunday evening, May 24. The program was presented at Centenary Wilbur Methodist church on S. E. 9th avenue and Pine street.

Some of the numbers presented were spirituals arranged for choir by Mr. Haywood, such as "Lord I'm Almost Home," "Higher Ground," "Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray" and "Get Away Jordan." The choir of Bethel AME church participated in the program.

Jules Haywood is director of music at Jones Methodist church in San Francisco. He has been in San Francisco for the past season, has played concerts on two continents and has been acclaimed widely by music critics for his musicianship.

He holds both the Bachelor of Music and the Master of Music Degrees from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California. He has also studied at the Paris Conservatory, Paris, France, and Zurich Konservatorium, Zurich, Switzerland.

While in Portland Mr. Haywood was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Will Gragg.

Watch this section for details of the June 28th meeting of the Vancouver National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. A national figure will be presented. Mark this date on your calendar. Be sure to reserve June 28th for this very special occasion.