

Tid Bits for Living

By REV. T.J. STRAYHAND

You and the Church

It is very amusing to me to hear many people adversely criticize the church and offer very idealistic and many times practical suggestions as to what they feel the church should do.

Just to name a few, the criticisms run like this, the church always wants money, in fact too much money. The church expects you to live differently from everybody else and wants you to give up too much. The preacher expects you to attend church too regularly. The church ought to do something for the people. The church ought to get involved in more community affairs. The people of the church need to get out of the ivory tower and go out into the street where the people are. They are always wanting money to send off somewhere and we need money here in our community. I don't get anything out of the church service when I attend. They always have the same few people in the church doing everything whenever I go. The church needs new leadership but I do not have the time to give.

Are these criticisms valid? Maybe they are but have you stopped to think or do you know Churches are charitable institutions and the only way the church can give out money is for it to have money to give. Doesn't the church have a right to expect you to live differently or what is the basis of the church? Before most of us ever heard of the word poverty the church was giving out food and clothing and shelter to the needy. There was a time when



REV. THOMAS STRAYHAND

connected nationally to church bodies and resources are pooled to give greater strength. Many of our people never would have been able to go to school had it not been for church schools, owned and operated by the church. The C.M.E. church, A.M.E., A.M.E.Z., Baptist, Episcopal, Lutheran, Church of God in Christ, Seventh Day Adventist and most other churches, own and operate colleges and seminaries which have to be supported. You are right, they do need money. Only a few can afford to pay expenses to the private or state schools unless there is a scholarship or loan. Long before there was any idea of a low income loan or grant for us to go to school the church was granting scholarship for its schools. Before many of our parents could ride on the front seat of the bus they were invited to the front seat of the church. Before we had men of color in professional athletic events, the church backed such events for its children and there they had

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Action speaks louder than words

by Jeraldine Bright

Action means just what it says - "action". Instability is a cultural experience today, right? What does this experience mean to so many, and what can we do by way of ministering to the people who experience this spiritual burden of job instability. We are aware that society is potentially rich in economic things. Now we have to engage ourselves in helping each other become the kind of individual who, in this society, can use our meager economic gains to the mutual advantages of all. This of course calls



Black Composer creates mass

"Mass of Joy," by Ann-Henry, composer in residence at Mount Angel Abbey, was sung for the first time at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Albina.

Miss Henry directed a joint choir of seminarians from Mt.

Angel and St. Andrew's Parish Folk Group in performing the unusual Mass. Miss Henry's intention of composition was to combine the best elements of traditional folk music to contemporary "soul" music. The Mass is intended to be sung by parish congregations.

Featured recently in Ebony Magazine Ann-Henry has become a national figure in the liturgical music arts. Her

"Mass of Joy" will continue to be performed at the 12:00 noon service at St. Andrew's church, 806 N. E. Albina.



Jeraldine Bright

ties may be as different in the future as we expect the economic conditions to be and are. Our major concern, and this is highly necessary to try to estimate what future jobs will require and then motivate persons of all ages to prepare for and fill them capably (that is capably friends) and with moral vision. We can work toward expanding our (in our churches) Christian literature and Christian education to include official, authoritative and compelling teachings that deal with today's problem.

A more flexible attitude toward work. In essence, study and respond affirmatively to the potential needs of society both social as well

as industrial, become aware of the obvious trends in the job situation and equip ourselves to meet a wide variety of specific types of work within a broad general area of vocational choice and competence.

"Speech is a form of action," but it is never the whole of action. An exciting future is rushing in and it comes with both judgment and grace.

Marshall McLuhan says: Communication, creativity and growth occur together or they do not occur at all. New technology creating new basic assumptions at all levels for all enterprises is wholly destructive if new objectives are not orchestrated with the (cont. p. 6 col. 6-7)

Hub-Cap to hold annual meeting

Hub-Cap, the Church Community Action Program operating on the Westside, will hold its annual meeting at the First United Methodist Church on November 18th at 6:30 p.m. Hub-Cap is supported by 18 churches in the area it serves. Dr. Lillianna Kopp, professor of sociology at Portland Community College, will discuss the social needs of Portland and the churches role in meeting them.

Hub-Cap supports programs including the Couch Drop-In Center, which provides a place for men in the Burnside area to gather; the Burnside Hotel, which offers counseling and a place for sick men to sleep; the Burn-

side Health Center; the Terwilliger School Area program which provides arts and craft for children; Summer Spokes, which serves older adults in the area of Couch school; and Northwest Hotline, a counseling-by phone service.

East Cap to hold Thanksgiving Dinner

East-Cap, a church sponsored community action program in the near East side will hold its sixth annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday November 21st, beginning at 4 p.m. The dinner, which will be held at Centenary-Wilbur Methodist Church, is free of charge.

Conversation

WITH Carolyn

The organization called SIMS, or Student International Meditation Society was founded several years ago by the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, from India, and designed to "save the world" thru the art and science of meditation. They say his guru or teacher in India maintained silence 60 or 70 years in the Himalayas and recovered this science from 3000 years of obscurity. The present teacher, the Maharishi, supposedly studied with him around 13 years, and emerged clad in cloth, sandals and beads, to begin his mission.

The movement today is in most of the major cities of this country, Canada, South America, Europe and Asia. It is the one where you present at the initiation ceremony, fruit, flowers and handkerchief which you later take home as a memento. At the ceremony you receive a mantra or sacred word based on your age, sex and general statistics. This is given by a student who has spent 6 months with the Maharishi in Majorca, Spain, or elsewhere and has learned the ceremony to perfection. This initiation, and each subsequent one yearly for 5 years, costs \$75.

This society holds out the hope of God realization in 5 years, with only 2-20 minute periods of meditation daily, while in the meantime one carries out one's daily activities. It is called a technique of living, rather than a religion. They claim to have the support of doc-

tors, scientists and the like.

Where as there may be some benefits to be gained by this group, and their zeal is commendable, it is my opinion that meditation and God-realization is not something which can be bought in 4 or 5 \$75 doses guaranteed to bring permanent results. I believe that some people from India are capitalizing financially on their country's genuinely great heritage to bring to a spiritually hungry West, tired of materialism, a hope which could be true but that they falsify. God and religion cannot be bought. Beyond the Financial aspect, my impression of the Maharishi in a film at Portland State, center of the SIMS organization here, was that he was smug, self-centered and effete, besides having a squeaky voice. Likewise the leader of the group, you will have to pardon it, could not be described as other than a sap. One's sincerest aspirations were repelled.

I would like to insert a word of caution:

Mantras may be misused; meditation may be sold, but woe to those that do so. Their gifts, if they have any will be taken from them. A genuine yogi would never sell his product.

It is said, "Be still and know that I am God." This mandate still holds. One only need listen, in the great vastness of creation...and it is an invitation that is free!

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Three way tie in hot race



Father G. Dickey



Rev. O.B. Williams



Rev. T.N. Noffa

Anniversary To Be Observed



Rev. J.H. Jackson

The race for minister of the year is really one for Ripley's "Believe it or Not!" This week we are in a three way tie between Reverend Gordon Dickey, T.N. Noffa, and John Jackson. The Rev. O.B. Williams is fourth with Rev. Thomas Strayhand in fifth. Elder Green is in sixth place.

No the race is not over yet, Bishop W.L. McKinney votes have started really coming in large measure.

The 8th anniversary of Rev. John H. Jackson as minister of Mount Olivet Baptist Church will be observed at the church at the 11:00 a.m. Congregational worship service on Sunday, November 21, 1971. Rev. O.B. Williams, Pastor, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church will be the guest speaker. The officers and members of Mount Olivet request your attendance at this observance.

Make Your Pastor The Observer "Minister of The Year"

Who Will Be Minister Of The Year?



Bishop W. L. McKinney

Be sure to vote for the minister of your choice. Any one can vote. Just use the official ballot to be found in the Observer every week. Vote as many times as you wish. Make your favorite minister the Observer Minister of the Year.

Start now to vote in this exciting, significant Observer promotion of the year. We are looking for the Minister of the Year. The one Man of God who has done the most for his flock and community. Will your minister be the most popular? He will be if his congregation shows how much they appreciate the devotion and sacrifice and work he has done for his parishioners.

Award To Be Dec. 26, 1971

Ballots will be available every week in your Observer you can vote as often as you like however you must use Observer Ballot.

No. 5 Nov. 11 1971

THE OBSERVER Minister of the Year

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