

Religion in the News



Rev. and Mrs. Byrdwell

Mt Olivet sets "Sing along"

Mt. Olivet Baptist Church "Building Fund Committee" presents A Sing-along with Rev. & Mrs. Byrdwell, Jr. of Mt. Zion Baptist Church of Seattle, Sunday, April 30, 1972, 5:00 p.m., at the 116 N.E. Schuyler St. Church.

Mrs. Byrdwell is an outstanding soprano and pianist and has been presented in

many concerts. She studied voice and piano at Fresno State College.

Rev. Byrdwell graduated from Fresno State as the first organ major in the college's history. At the present, Mrs. Byrdwell is serving as the accompanist for the choir and Rev. Byrdwell as assistant minister.

Bethel presented "A formal hour with God"



As part of Bethel's "Formal hour with God" the Rhodes Singers sang "It took a Miracle." The program included many other talented artists.

CUE contracts student exchange

Mr. Rodney Page, Director of the Center for Urban Encounter, announced today the signing of a contract between CUE and the College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio.

Beginning July 1st the College of Wooster will begin sending students to Portland for an "Urban Quarter" experience. The students will be placed in a public or private service agency that is involved in various problems, issues, and concerns of metropolitan Portland. In addition to the field placement with a service agency,

they will also attend a weekly seminar conducted by the staff of CUE relating their field placement to various urban problems. The Center for Urban Encounter has found the best laboratory for urban training is direct engagement in social problems and interdisciplinary reflection in the context of their engagement. Urban problems come alive in a remarkable way when done in the context of personal encounter with such problems as: Law and Justice, Government, Economics, Racism, Environmental Quality, and Cultural Change.

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Mr. Page stated, "This affords us the opportunity to work with an academic institution on a continuing basis to utilize the city as a classroom, to bring the expertise and commitment of students into direct service with helping agencies and to allow students to work within particular problems in government and private and community organization."

The Center for Urban Encounter (CUE), an agency of the Greater Portland Council of Churches, was initiated in January, 1968 to fulfill a three-fold mandate:

- (1) training persons for community action through urban encounter, reflection and action;
- (2) research into the causes and cures for urban problems;
- (3) experimentation in the arts and communication.

The contract will begin July 1st, 1972.

Black serves Seminary

The Board of Directors of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary announced the appointment of Reverend David T. Shannon as Dean of Faculty. Rev. Shannon is the first black dean to serve a predominantly white denominational seminary in the United States.

Currently associate professor of Religion and director of Minority Studies at Bucknell University, Reverend Shannon holds a B.A. from Virginia Union University, a B.D. from Virginia Union School of Religion, an S.T.M. from Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and is a candidate for the

S.T.D. degree from Catholic University of America.

An American Baptist pastor and teacher, Rev. Shannon has taught at Howard University, Virginia Union and developed the Urban Training Program at St. Mary's Seminary.

He has held pastorates in Virginia and Ohio, and has held special lectures for the European Theological Seminar of Baptist Educators in Bonn, Germany; the American Baptist Minister's Council in St. Paul, Minnesota; North American Baptist Seminary in Sioux Falls, S.D.; and the Evangelical Seminary in Puerto Rico.



Black parents sue Catholic school

A group of black parents have sued the Roman Catholic Diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana, Monday because of segregation in church schools. The parents want the Diocese to integrate by this fall or lose their tax-exemptions and federal aid.

Lawyer Ben Lamberton, who filed the suit, worked on parents in Abilene, Louisiana. That group sued the

a similar case in 1971, involving a group of black Catholic Church for segregating Black and White Catholic schools that were 500 yards apart, separated only by an integrated cemetery. The U.S. District Court ordered those two schools together by the Fall of 1971, but the issues were never answered. That case was the first time anyone had sued any Catholic school for racial segregation.

Lamberton said that the Alexandria case, however, will "Give us the means to close one of the most substantial loopholes in the whole integration situation." No longer will whites be able to flee integrated schools for all-white church schools.

Because of a federal case stating that Mississippi segregationist academies could not get tax exemptions, the IRS is also being sued. The June, 1970, case said that schools had to show they were not discriminating in order to get tax exemptions.

HEW is also involved because school systems applying for and getting federal funds have to sign statements of non-discrimination. This is part of the equal protection clause of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Without signing this statement, the schools cannot get federal or state money. The Bishop of Alexandria signed the statement, but the parents say he has never stopped segregation in his schools.

The Alexandria schools could possibly lose as much as one-third of their budget, Lamberton hinted, from state and federal grants being taken away. If the parents win, the case "could be used all over the country in cases of segregation in public and private schools," Lamberton concluded.

Black Minister appointed to FCC

Benjamin L. Hooks, a Memphis attorney and minister, will be nominated as the first black on the seven-member Federal Communications Commission, President Nixon announced. Hooks would replace Robert Bortley, who plans to retire June 30.

Hooks' term in the \$38,000-a-year job would be seven years.

Hooks was appointed in 1965 to the Shelby County, Tennessee, Criminal Court by the late Governor Frank Clement. A year later he was elected to an eight-year term, but resigned in 1969 to resume private practice in Memphis.

Hooks is the pastor of the Middle Baptist Church in Memphis. He is the co-founder of the Mutual Savings and Loan Association of Memphis, a board member of SCLC, and a Life Member of the NAACP.

He has been co-producer of several television programs broadcast by Memphis stations.

Of his pending nomination, Hooks said, "I'm certainly happy" that Mr. Nixon "has seen fit to recommend me for the Communications Commission. It is one of the most important regulatory agencies that we have, and I feel honored to be nominated for the position."

"I feel that dealing with people, both black and white, for the last 23 years qualifies me to work on the Commission."

Zest of Life

By Carnegie "Happy" Pullen

Hare Krishna and Hindu Cow Worship have come to Portland. Perhaps you have seen the rather strangely attired dancing members of the Hare Krishna Consciousness movement dancing on the streets near big department stores, where a lot of people pass. The dress in odd yellow robes, and the men wear their hair shaved or cut close, except for a patch of hair just back of the crown, which is braided into a sort of pig-tail. The girls in the group seem to keep all their hair.

This scribe partook of a feast (pasada) with a group of them in their temple on Roosevelt Way in Seattle, near the University of Washington. Some of the pigtailed members were alert young college students, and there was even a junior executive among them.

While I was there His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami, Founder and Acharya of the movement, and author of "The Bhagavad Gita As It Is Now," arrived and gave a discourse on "Hindu Cow Culture," during an intermission in the dancing. His Divine Grace explained that Hindu's recognize that God is everywhere and in all things, even in snakes, cows and other animals. The reason the cow is singled out for special reverence is that of all creatures she gives of herself so unselfishly and so continuously in the service of mankind. The worshippers of Krishna in turn recognize and worship the presence of Krishna in the cow. Sri Bhaktivedanta also explained the pigtailed of the disciples represents the tails of cows as a mark of respect and reverence of this lowly servant of mankind, the cow.

In Portland the Hare Krishna people hold meetings at 7 p.m. each night, except Tuesday, at 2325 E. Burnside.

St. Feast and reception at 3:30 Sundays. They have a constantly repeated mantram or chant which goes as follows: "Hare Krishna Hare Krishna Krishna Krishna Hare Hare Hare Rama Hare Rama Rama Hare Hare." Each of these words is a name of God, and they believe that by repeating these names over and over, along with their prayers and meditations they will receive great spiritual exaltation and enlightenment. But any kind of strenuous exercise and concentration upon any one concept or object brings rewards of one form of spiritual exaltation or another.

One wonders if there is not some connection between the Hindu concept of the sacredness of the cow, and the Baal worshippers of ancient Israel, which was considered a fake religion which competed with the religious worship of the ancient Israelites.

Another strange reminder comes to mind. In about 1920, this writer accompanied a psychology class through an insane asylum in Columbia, S.C. One of the typical cases they brought out for the students to see and speak to was an elderly black man who had his partly shaved, and a pig-tail braid of hair hanging down the back. He said, "Do you want to know why I wear my hair this way?" And of course, we said respectfully, Yes. He said, "It is to keep cows from getting hollow horn." Note the association with cows. Was it perhaps that this man had some inherited memory of an incarnation as a Hindu, or member of some race which revered and worshipped cows?

(One other thought comes up for consideration. One does not see among the Hare Krishna people any manifestation of superior wisdom, or spiritual exaltation, blessedness or miracles than among devout Christians which brings to mind some words of Jesus just before He gave the suggested words of a model prayer, "The Lord's Prayer."

Jesus said, "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think they shall be heard for their much speaking."

"Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask Him. Matt. 6:7-9."

After this manner therefore pray ye: Then He gave the Lord's Prayer.

"Christ is the prototype of a humanity that is yet to be; Not the great exception, but the great example."—George Seaver.

The Medical Staff of St. Vincent's Hospital has contributed \$500 to the Portland Community College scholarship fund for the training of nurses.

Thrift shop opens

The Church Mouse Thrift Shop in the basement of The Old Church, S.W. 11th and Clay Streets, Portland, has had a grand reopening and is now doing business Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Donations of clean resellable clothing, household and gift items, furniture, jewelry, records and books are acceptable for resale. The proceeds from the shop aid in the restoration of The Old Church as a historic landmark and community center.

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The Mount Olivet Baptist Church

Rev. John H. Jackson
Minister
N.E. First and Schuyler
Portland, Ore.
Phone 284-1954
Sunday School 9 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Vesper 5 p.m.

Let us enter to worship and depart to serve.



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