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# NNPA publishers visit USSR

by Frances Murphy,  
 The Afro-American News-  
 papers

[This is the beginning of a series of articles on the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic by publishers of Black newspapers in the United States who visited the country from September 27 to October 7.]

Ten days is not enough to cover even a small area of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), a country where 50 years ago a working people revolution replaced tsarism with socialism. This fact was brought home to eight publishers of Black newspapers who visited the Soviet Union, the largest country in the world, from

September 27 through October 7. Their trip, which included an all-night train ride and a 750-mile plane ride, took them through two of the 15 republics in the Soviet Union - Russia and Uzbek. Shopping and a short visit to the American Embassy were the unplanned part of the tour, which included in-

terviews at radio and television stations and the major newspapers; a visit to the fabulous Hermitage Museum in Leningrad; to a mausoleum in Moscow facing Red Square where the body of Lenin is on display in an air tight tomb; and the Kremlin. Also on the agenda was a visit to Novosti, the Soviet Press Agency; a ballet at the Bolshoi Theater; the circus; collective farms, a secondary school and a nursery school in the city of Tashkent; and a visit to the city of Puskin to see the statue of the famed Black Russian Soviet Poet.

The group was the guest of the board of the Union of Soviet Journalists. The weather was cold in Moscow (Russia) and from cool to warm in Tashkent (Uzbek). The food was good all over, but the fruits were especially sweet and juicy in Tashkent. Dr. Carlton Goodlett, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and publisher of the San Francisco Sun Reporter, was the leader of the delegation.

"Black Americans, young and old, but more especially our youth, are asking many questions about the world beyond the seas," Goodlett stated. "We cannot properly understand the role which Black Americans must play as a catalyst to social change, in both the domestic and foreign policies of the United States, unless the Black press, the communicators of Black America, visit these foreign lands to confer with the people and their leaders. A program of international visits started in 1971 with a 9-delegate tour of the State of Israel. Eight members of NNPA have just returned from a 10-day tour of the USSR as guests of the Soviet of Soviet Journalists, who will return our visit in June of 1974.

"The Black press contemplates other international visits of the Middle East, the Arab states, Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe," Dr. Goodlett concluded.

[For the next six weeks articles will appear in NNPA member newspapers, along with pictures by D.L. Inman, publisher of the Thomasville News (Ga.) and the Tallahassee News Free Press (Fla.).]



WILLIAM F. DOCTOR

## Airman scores highest

A U.S. Navy Airman Apprentice from Phenix City, Alabama graduated from the Navy's basic airman course in North Island, California with the highest grade since the school's establishment in 1969.

He is Airman Apprentice William F. Doctor, the son of Mrs. Bertha Brown of Phenix City. He is fondly called "Doc" by his friends, not only because of his name, but also because of his skill in repairing aircraft.

William Doctor graduated from Phenix City, Alabama's south Girard High School, in June of 1969. He is also a recent graduate of the University of California's Technical Training Program, where he received his Associate of Arts Degree in Data Processing.

He enlisted in the Naval Air Reserves in January of 1973 and went on active duty three months later. He is looking forward to a job in aviation machinery in jet technology. "Doc" plans to remain on active duty, and, in his words, "see how I do with my plan".

## Coach assists league

Jack Avina, coach of the University of Portland's basketball team, will aid basketball players and coaches of the Future Champs Basketball League.

Don Frazier of the Metropolitan Urban Center, who is organizing the Future Champs, is recruiting seventh and eighth graders to learn skills, attitude and competitive spirit.

Frazier says the needs of the Future Champs are few and the rewards can be great. He asks that anyone interested in assisting the program or coaching to call him at 223-6161.

## Notice

The Portland City Planning Commission will consider the draft of the Northwest Comprehensive Plan at a public hearing to be held on November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 147 N.W. 19th.

For the benefit of interested persons copies of the draft Northwest Comprehensive Plan report are available for examination at the offices of the Planning Commission, 424 S.W. Main Street; at the Social Science Reserve desk, Multnomah County Library, main branch; and at Friendly House, 2617 N.W. Savier.

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At the Pravda Publishing Plant, USSR, are Dr. Goodlett of the San Francisco Sun Reporter, Garth Reeves of the Miami Times, Mrs. Lenora Carter of the Houston Forward Times, and Mr. Howard Woods of the St. Louis Sentinel.

## CAUCUS TIME

by Jettie B. Wilds, Jr., Chairman,  
 Oregon Black Caucus

Sometimes I wonder how many ways we will be misused by the man. The "merit badge" syndrome is one more aspect of the conspiracy to misuse, abuse and insult our intelligence. The "merit badge" syndrome is the gathering of committee appointments or board appointments from white folks. This is the act of Blacks being appointed to and accepting more appointments to commissions and boards than they could ever hope to have time to be effective in their performance.

It's about time that Blacks stop accepting multiple commission and board appointments if the impact on their time will render them ineffective. The Blacks who accept more appointments than they can handle are supporting a system of exploitation and lies that the Black community does not need. It only enhances the feeling of powerlessness to think that things do not change even when there are Black representatives present. Very few people know that some appointees don't even make meetings after having been appointed. Few of us think of the volumes of literature that must be digested in order to be effective. Many Black appointees, due to a lack of information, rubber stamp proposals that run freeways through Black schools, pipelines through Black living rooms, and cut services to the deserving. It may be hard for the

Black who accumulates appointments to commissions and boards, as if earning "merit badges", to find some other way of feeling important, but there are other ways. The first thing that has to be done in preparation for seeking other alternatives is to realize that we are suffering from too much individual autonomy. The "man" supports this separation of individuals from the masses of people by "stroking" (rewarding) individual Blacks. It's the old "but you're the exception" game. He appeals to the impoverished egos of individual Blacks by talking about what fine individuals they are. What usually follows is some statement, inference, or innuendo about the "other Blacks". You will note that the Oregonian has been running features on some of our fine Black women. It's part of the same game or mentality. We know darn well that they are outstanding. In fact there are many other Black sisters who need "stroking" also. The point is that we as Blacks have not adequately done the "stroking" and the "man's" praise usually produces feelings of individualism rather than collectivism.

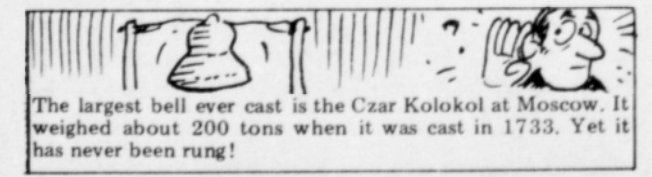
The Albina Women's League did some good things at their recent Awards Banquet, but not nearly enough is being done. Admittedly, the "man" has taken the initiative away. Nevertheless,

while we're regrouping to reward (stroke) our own people, we must recognize his ploy for what it is. It's called King-making or Queen-making (more like Serf-making for Blacks). In studying Oregon's history, one notes that the literature reads as if only three or four Black families were inhabitants. The same game of white selection of Blacks to reward. (I researched the records of Black organizations.)

While surveying the Oregon Blue Book and also taking note of the recent State appointments and continued County and City appointments, I've noted the same pattern! The Governor, the Mayor of Portland, the Multnomah County Commissioners, the Portland School Administration, and the Oregonian staff, to name a few, must have the same list of Blacks Eligible for "Merit Badges". We can't blame the "man". It's up to the Blacks to recognize their own time limitations and the "man's" game plan. Those on Boards presently should put a halt to the game playing by suggesting some of the other talented and willing brothers and sisters in the banks, public schools, private businesses, Black homes, colleges, and other places when the next white person approaches them for an appointment. If the appointment of the other brother and sister isn't made, ask yourself why. If the ego will allow, there may be some answers that aren't totally flattering.

We certainly need Blacks on Boards and Commissions of all types. Let's just spread it out a little more. There will be more Blacks involved in a necessary process and increased changes for a more thorough job of protecting Black interest will be more evident. For the Blacks who are politically motivated, in the office-holding sense, it is recognized that they must remain in the spotlight just as their white counterparts have done and must do. Nevertheless, even those persons must select the appointments that will give the most visibility mileage and then recommend other brothers and sisters for the remainder. There just is no excuse for the non-political collector of "merit badges".

We must rid ourselves of the "merit badge" syndrome. I know that the cure will be tough. However, when it's found that the whites get the meaningful, influential, interesting, challenging, intriguing, and policy-making jobs while Blacks get volunteer Board and Commission appointments, then the picture may be enough to get us over the rough spots. After all, we're tired of being misused, aren't we?



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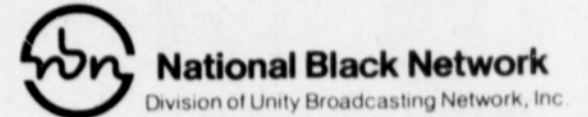
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