



ALFRED L. HENDERSON
Editor/Publisher



**WE SEE THE WORLD
THROUGH BLACK EYES**

EDITORIAL FOCUS

Racism wins again

It is easier for a Black young lady to become the Queen of the University of Alabama than to be chosen Queen of Portland's Rose Festival. We have received numerous comments, from both whites and Blacks, that Princess Georgene Rose of Franklin High School was the outstanding member of the court and should have been chosen queen.

This is not to take anything from Queen Danita Ruzic, who entered the competition in good faith and should not be blamed for the Rosarians' disinterest in the qualities and the aspirations of Black young people. It is true that the Royal Rosarians do not choose the Queen directly, but they create the atmosphere and choose the judges. Perhaps we should not expect that staid old organization to recognize the diversity of Portland's citizenry and realize that they could be well represented by a Black.

The Rose Festival Society has announced that next year the number of Princesses will be decreased to five or seven and that the method of selection will be changed. We believe this to be an effort to eliminate the Black students who are becoming too visible in the Festival. This year four high school student bodies selected Black princesses to represent them, but what chance will Blacks have when competing throughout the metropolitan area for five or seven positions, especially if adults make the judgements.

We believe the Rose Festival Society is willing to change its entire format to protect its white image. The precedent was set when the Junior Princes were eliminated because a Black Prince was matched with a white Princess. Although these children were only nine or ten years old the Rose Festival Society could not weather the storm that followed. While all of the other Princesses and their Princes sat together, the little Black Prince and the little white Princess were separated on the float so the spectators at the Junior Parade would not have to see them together, and that was the end of the Junior Prime Minister and the Junior Princes.

This year there are no Black drivers for the Queen's and Princess' cars. Surely there are some Black students at Benson High School who could qualify for this position -- after all, Blacks have always been chauffeurs.

The Royal Rosarians have not made their organization representative of the ethnic groups of Portland, depriving a large segment of citizens from participation in the spirit of the Rose Festival. While it should feature the talents of all groups, it remains largely an all-white affair.

Although Americans are finally realizing the beauty of Black young people, even in the Deep South, the Royal Rosarians still seek the traditional anglo-saxon, white American features. In the process, they rob the young Black students of their right to dream, the right to aspire to the highest honor paid a high school student by the Portland business community -- the privilege of being crowned "Queen of Rosaria".

School decisions

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 5) Blank, Lawrence, Kansas; Frederick T. Haley, Tacoma, Washington; Ethel Lichtman, Palo Alto, California; Grace Olivarez, Albuquerque, New Mexico; Mrs. Merrimon Cunningham, Clayton, Missouri; and Daniel Collins, San Francisco, California.

Commission staff director is Shelly Weinstein, former project director for the education study of the Citizens Commission on Maryland Government.

The June 26th hearing will begin at 9:30 a.m. and continue into the evening. The morning and afternoon session will be given over to invited witnesses. The evening session, which begins at 7 p.m., will hear from any individuals and representatives of citizen and community groups who wish to testify. These will be heard in order of registration

at the entrance to the hearing room.

When the hearings are concluded, the Commission will prepare a formal report of its findings, which shall be made available to Federal and state legislators; federal and state and local educational administrators and policy makers; to educational and professional associations; appropriate labor organizations and citizens groups.

The National Committee for Citizens in Education is successor to the National Committee for Support of the Public Schools, founded in 1962 by the late Agnes E. Meyer. NCCE is a non-profit, non-partisan, membership organization which seeks to encourage greater public participation in the affairs of the nation's public schools. Its work is financed by dues and by a grant from the Ford Foundation.

Problem needs study

A recent National Health Survey estimated that between 15 and 20 percent of the adults in the United States have hypertension, or high blood pressure. More than 21 percent of the nation's urban Blacks as compared to 13.5 percent of the nation's urban whites. There is also a prevalence of hypertension among Black children.

High blood pressure affects Black people in several unique ways. It develops earlier in Blacks and is frequently more severe and results in a greater number of deaths at a younger age -- most often from strokes and heart failure.

The fact is that nearly every case of high blood pressure can be treated effectively, yet it is one of the most neglected of all major health problems. Only about half of the persons who have hypertension are aware of it, and most do not have adequate treatment.

Why do Blacks suffer from high blood pressure? It has been recently suggested that inadequate diet together with a lifestyle characterized by oppression, unrealistic social restrictions, and the pressures and stresses caused by the daily struggle to survive, might contribute to the problems of hypertension.

A two-pronged attack is essential to eradicate this serious health problem which is the number one killer of Black people. First we must participate in the community drives for blood pressure testing to identify the disease.

Beyond that, massive measures are necessary to eradicate the psychological and socio-economic pressures that contribute to the high incidence among Blacks. High blood pressure can no longer be ignored by those governmental and private agencies that provide medical research.



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LETTERS

Salute to Medgar

To Our Friends, everywhere:

Mississippians, wherever they are, should get together and take stock. We need to remember those whose lives were spent that we might come out as far as we have. This year it seems more than ever appropriate that we should do that. More and more white folks are seeing what Blacks and other non-whites have seen all the time -- that freedom is not free -- and certainly it doesn't come automatically.

I think of Fayette as the visible symbol of what Medgar Evers, my brother, died to accomplish. It is indeed a free town, one where all its residents and all its visitors are considered for what they are: persons of worth and dignity.

Medgar died for a world where men and women could be called Mr. and Mrs. and Miss -- and not "uncle" and "auntie" or "boy" or "gal", if they happened to be Black.

He knew he was a marked man, but he went on in the open, trying to make a world where little children could know their importance. He died so Black mothers and fathers could stop whipping their children to instill fear of the white man in them, and thus save their lives --

He died so these same

parents, and others to follow them, could not only save the physical lives of their children but also make a world where their children and children's children could grow up to be mentally and emotionally whole.

Medgar died so children could go to the fair and sit in whichever seat fell vacant on the ferris wheel. He died so children could form one line at the movie theater -- instead of one on the big street and the other in the alley.

Medgar died so children could drink just plain water -- and not "colored" or "white" water.

My brother (and yours too if you believe in the things he believed in) died so everybody could vote and hold office, if he or she wanted to.

Come on back "down home" on June 26th and 27th this year and let this tired and confused country see that we can't forget our martyrs and heroes. This will be our second annual Mississippi Homecoming and the eleventh year since Medgar was assassinated.

We would like so much to have you join us as we measure the miles we have come. Please let us know.

Sincerely,
Charles Evers

Pledges effort

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the Portland Observer readership and editorial staff for helping me to be elected the Democratic nominee for Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, Multnomah County.

The confidence expressed in my candidacy for public

office is most appreciated and I feel fortunate to have received such wide support from the communities that together make Portland and Multnomah County a good place in which to live and work.

Sincerely,
Donald Clark
Commissioner

Letter to the President

Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett, president of the National Newspaper Publishers Association and editor-publisher of the San Francisco Sun-Reporter, wired President Nixon protesting the placement of Defense Department advertising in the white media and denying it to the Black press. The message reads:

"Mr. President: The 7-column, 17-inch Army Opportunities ads appearing currently in the White Metropolitan Daily Press are the most blatant examples of economic racism perpetrated by an insensitive national administration against the Black Press of America.

"How can the Executive Branch of our National Government enforce equal economic opportunity statutes when the Federal Government permits its Defense Department to openly discriminate against the sole Black-owned com-

munications medium of 25 million Black Americans, a people more numerous than the populations of 157 other nations?"

"The Expenditure of Federal advertising dollars without observing an equitable advertising policy is the gravest form of institutional racism and economic criminality. We demand that the Defense Department be forced to obey the Equal Economic Opportunity statutes and its fair minorities procurement policies."

A copy of the message was sent to James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense.

Blacks protest

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 3) telegrams of protest to Senator Pastore and other members of the Senate Commerce Committee. Other members of the committee are: Senator Vance Hartke of Indiana; Philip Hart and Robert P. Griffin of Michigan; John V. Tunney of California; Adlai E. Stevenson III of Illinois; Howard H. Baker, Jr. of Tennessee; Marlow W. Cook of Kentucky; J. Glenn Beall, Jr. of Maryland; James B. Pearson of Kansas; Warren G. Magnuson of Washington; Howard W. Cannon of Nevada; Russell B. Long of Louisiana; Frank E. Moss of Utah; Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii; Ernest F. Hollings of South

Carolina; and Norris Cott of New Hampshire.

Letters should be addressed to the Senate Commerce Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

"The time has come," declares Dr. Goodlett, "for Blacks to dramatize their concerns and rights for open access to full participation in mass communications."

Teachers

(Continued from pg. 1, col. 6) unrestricted grant of \$500.

Teachers are nominated on classroom teaching ability, contributions to research, administrative ability, civic service and professional recognition.

Take Care - Contents

Dangerous. Before you buy household products such as drain cleaners, oven cleaners and pain removers, check the package. Is the product in a safe, child-resistant container?

During the first month of 1974, approximately 2,000 injuries involving dangerous household poisons like these caused injuries, according to a report from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System. More than half the victims were small children.

After May 31st, child-resistant packaging will be required by the Product Safety Commission.

Not Everyone Subscribes To The Portland Observer



but then, not everyone comes in out of the rain, either.

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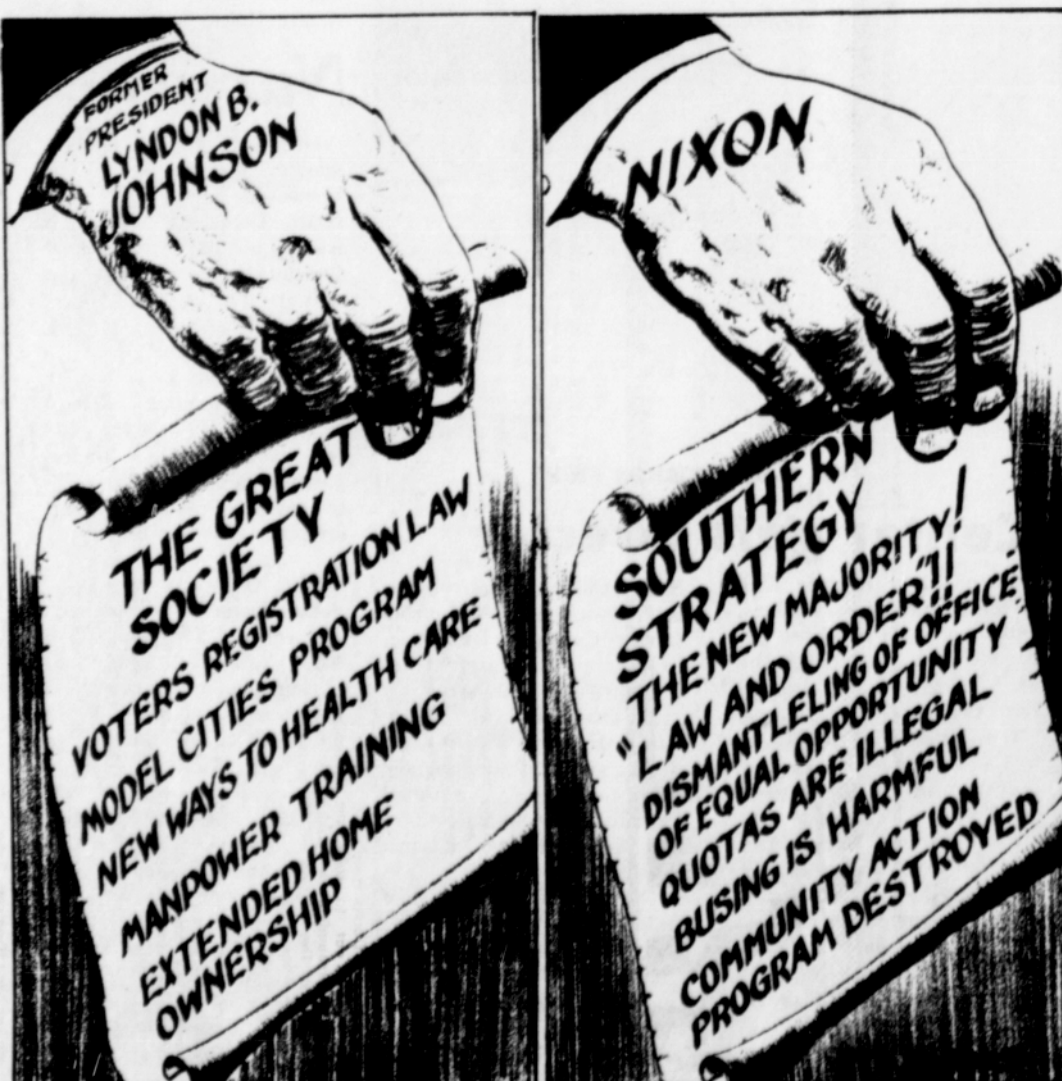
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