

SPINKS vs. ALI



by Booker Griffin

Muhammad Ali

Muhammad Ali is a man steeped in belief of his own manifest destiny. He truly believes that his fate is a lofty one and that he is a man whose mission is beyond the ordinary.

That vision does not end within the 464 square feet of a boxing ring but extends to the far reaches of omnipotence. His dreams and his visions are indeed far beyond the confines of the boxing ring but a major foundation of his existence squarely rests upon his success as a boxer.

Ali has the spirit of an eternal champion. His deep and abiding pride stalks stubbornly within him like a brooding phantom agitating him to pursue the goals of his perceptions. Those perceptions are often very deep and very personal.

He pursues his goals hardest when there are those who doubt him or relegate him to defeat.

He rises to the occasion best when he is the underdog.

He is most devastating when his efforts can be worked into a crusade where in with the skills of a Merlin can work vaunted magic and accomplish the impossible.

Thus his rematch with young, brawling Leon Spinks, who lifted his crown unexpectedly in February, comes forth amid the kinds of circumstances and atmosphere within which he functions best.

One need only to think back to the days prior to the first Liston fight, the Thrilla in Manila or the days in Zaire to feel and remember that certain electricity that flows from and (Please turn to Page 5 Column 1)

Leon Spinks

Caricatures are to individuals what stereotypes are to groups.

When a person from a stereotyped group is presented in caricature, the impact of the caricature is made stronger by the force of the stereotype.

That is the case with World's Heavyweight Champion Leon Spinks.

The American media have chosen to present him in caricature, exaggerating certain negatives and ignoring certain positives. Within the so-called confines of "fair and balanced news coverage" there is much latitude for subjective manipulation and that subjective manipulation has been utilized

against Leon Spinks to the fullest. To the extent that America holds certain contrived stereotypes of Black people, the media imposed caricature of Leon Spinks has suffered a greater believability because of his Blackness and situation in life.

Caricatures can be fun when they are humorous and of light intent. They are then mere cartoons intended to help us laugh together but not at one another. Caricatures can be vicious and brutal when they are aimed at a person. They are then villainous and injurious.

Such has been the case of the assault orchestrated upon Leon Spinks that has discolored him and made him "colored" in the eyes of so many Americans and others around the globe. (Please turn to Page 5 Column 2)

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Robert Phillips, chairman of the Greater Northeast Precinct Police Council presents appreciation award to Reverend and Mrs. John Parker of Prison Ministries.

Parkers praised for prison work

The Greater Northeast Precinct Police Council, a citizens' advocacy group for the Northeast residents in police matters, during its regular monthly meeting held at the King Neighborhood facility presented a special crime prevention award to Reverend John H. Parker, Jr., and Mrs. Vivian Parker for their work in prison out-reach.

The award was presented to the Parkers' by Robert Phillips, Chairman of the Greater Northeast Precinct Police Council. He stated, "the Precinct Council is presenting this award to Reverend and Mrs. Parker because of their work, commitment and dedication in institutionalizing the Prison Ministries Program and for helping prisoners achieve a sense of self worth."

Reverend John Parker, Jr. who is

the director of Prison Ministries, Inc., a non-profit organization, has been involved in Prison Ministries since attending Warner Pacific College as a student in 1964.

The Prison Ministries Program has been incorporated since 1975. Since that time Mrs. Parker has served as secretary/treasurer of the corporation and also coordinator of the music for chapel services and special programs.

Prison Ministries offers counseling services to prisoners and their families and offers preventive counseling to anyone upon request.

Special features of the program include: home visitations, marriage counseling to prisoners and their families, transitional counseling and individual counseling. Training is

also offered to prisoners interested in the ministry.

The Prison Ministries, Inc., operates a counseling center, "Turning Point" — located at 3946 N. Mississippi in Portland. Part of the Prison Ministries Program include special ministry and counseling services to — Oregon State Correctional Institute, Oregon State Penitentiary, Oregon's Correction Center, Claire Argow Women's Center, Rocky Butte County Jail, McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary in Washington, Washington State Prison and Nebraska State Penitentiary.

The organization receives support of its programs from churches of all denominations in and outside of Oregon, from businesses and through individual contributions.

King neighborhood asks Crime Prevention funding

The Greater Northeast Precinct Police Council adopted by unanimous vote the recommendations of the King Improvement Association and the Inner Northeast Area Citizens Crime Prevention Committee recommendation that King Neighborhood be selected as the target neighborhood for the first phase of the Community Crime Prevention Grant funded by a grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration. The grant sets aside \$35,000 to be made available to neighborhoods wishing to attempt innovative crime prevention projects.

"Target neighborhoods" are selected based upon the severity of the crime problem in each neighborhood, the population of the neighborhood, the extent to which the neighborhood is organized, its ability to provide volunteer support,

and the extent to which it demonstrates an interest in participating in an organized crime prevention program.

The King Neighborhood Crime Prevention Committee has been operating since 1977, and neighborhood residents have met with Police Bureau representatives about neighborhood crime problems, as well as held home meetings about crime prevention and one block party.

Ella Mae Gay, vice-chairperson of the King Improvement Association, stated in a letter to the Precinct Council, "our commitment to crime will no doubt be strengthened by the news that our neighborhood crime rate per thousand is almost a third higher than any other neighborhood in the city, with the exception of Downtown and the Burnside area."

Using the figures of Lt. Tom Pot-

ter, who is in charge of the Police Bureau's Crime Prevention Unit, the crime rate in the King area is more than three times that of the adjacent Woodlawn, Piedmont, and Sabin neighborhoods.

A "small-scale" example of the new crime prevention methods that may be undertaken by citizens in King if the recommendations are accepted by the city-wide Crime Prevention Board includes escort services to senior citizens and children, installation of locks and other security devices in the homes of neighborhood residents and a wide variety of educational projects.

The Inner Northeast Area Crime Prevention Committee will be meeting with the King Improvement Association in the near future to draft a crime prevention plan for the King neighborhood.

White contractors turn Black, Whites desegregate white school

A feeling of great satisfaction drifted over the blond, blue-eyed contractor when he realized that at last his 600 member crew had been brought into at least temporary (on paper) racial balance. Now he could qualify as a minority contractor and get a cut of the Portland school district's business. He explained to his wife at dinner that night that the School Board had recently passed a motion designating any building contractor with a work force containing the acceptable percentages of minority employees as a minority business enterprise and setting aside a piece of the action for them.

As he turned over in bed the next morning, this conservative middle-class contractor suddenly noticed that his hands had turned black. Leaping out of bed he saw a dark-skinned face with nappy hair staring at him from the mirror. "My God, I'm Black", he exclaimed as he grabbed his hard hat and headed for the office.

But as the day wore on the enthusiasm faded. First, his banker had second thoughts about that line of

credit he badly needed. And then his insurance agent called to say the premium has gone up. His bonding agency decided he was a "high risk" and SBA delayed his loan. After a hard stare from the policeman on the corner and an insult from the bartender, he arrived home in a state of shock.

"Please God," he prayed. "Just make me white. I don't want to be a 'minority business enterprise' any more."

A flight into fantasy? Perhaps. But it could happen to any unsuspecting contractor now that the Portland School Board has decided that any white contractor can be a "minority business enterprise". Yes. Last week the Portland School Board determined that any business which has employees in percentages comparable to the percentages of minorities in the crafts and trades in the labor market is a "minority business enterprise."

So look out, Mr. Contractor, hire one more Black carpenter and you just might wake up Black.

That wasn't enough for one

week's work. The School Board also decided to desegregate Alameda Elementary School, which is nearly all white, with white students from Beaumont.

One of the primary reasons for forcing a middle school on the Beaumont community was to aid desegregation. Yet last year, in order to allay the fears of white parents and entice them to favor a middle school, principal Bill Beck promised that all Beaumont lower grade students could go to Alameda and none would have to go to Sabin.

The Beaumont Better School Committee (pro middle school) was even more blatantly racist, writing to parents: "Make Alameda our neighborhood primary school! Remember that Alameda is only 14 blocks from Beaumont. It can easily accommodate every primary child at Beaumont — no exceptions! Alameda residents are our neighbors. We attend the same churches, shop the same stores, use the same YMCA, play in the same park, and attend the same pre-schools and share the same (Please turn to page 2 col. 1)

State minority employment doubles

Governor Bob Straub announced that minority employment in state positions has risen over 100 percent during his administration, from 815 minorities employed in 1975 to 1,646 currently. Of even greater significance is the increase in positions in the higher levels (19-314) from 170 in 1975 to 311 in 1978. The permanent full-time state work force is 5.4 minority.

"We've made a good start and I'm proud of what we've done so far."

"I'm very pleased that my administration developed the first legislatively approved affirmative action plan in the United States — and that we did it before there was a federal mandate."

"We have been working hard in Oregon to 'close the gap' and make equality a reality for all our citizens. Equality has been a constant goal of my administration since I took office in 1975 and will remain so as long as I'm in office," stated Governor Straub.

According to the most recent state statistics there are 244 Black male employees, 68 of whom are at least 19 or above. There are 316 Black female employees, 33 at level 19 or above.

There are 215 Hispanic males, with 41 above level 19 and 194 Hispanic females with 12 above level 19. There are 174 male Asians with 68 above level 19 and 228 Asian females with 46 above level 19. There are 128 male Native Americans with 35 above level 19 and 147 female Native Americans with 8 above level 19. Level 19 salary range is \$12,000.

Harold Williams, who has served as the State Affirmative Action Officer since his appointment by Governor Straub in 1975 has praise for some state agencies and feels less favorable toward the efforts of others.

The Department of Commerce has made the greatest gains in the 1977-1978 fiscal year. "I have to credit the administrator, Cornelius Bateson,

with the gains the department has made," Williams explained.

"Bateson sees the need to employ more minorities and women and has made that a priority. The most encouraging thing is that Blacks are being hired in positions they have not traditionally held. For example, Zoe Wilson is assistant director of personnel. Wilbur Russell is a fire inspector and Lee Harris is inspector for pre-fab modules."

"In the Insurance Commission, which is part of Commerce, there is Andria Marziti, a Chicano, who is Deputy Insurance Commissioner."

The Forest Service has an active program, seeking minority employees. "They are having a hard time finding Black foresters because Blacks in Oregon don't know anything about opportunities in forestry." Although forest products is Oregon's largest industry, most Black students, who live in Portland, are never exposed to this industry. (Please turn to Page 8 Column 4)

Rahsaan files for MSD board position



HALIM RAHSAAN

Halim Rahsaan has filed as a candidate for the Board of the Metropolitan Service District, position 11. A native of Portland, Rahsaan changed his name legally from William Earl Cross to Abdul Halim Rahsaan three years ago because of religious preference.

Rahsaan, the son of William and

Harriet Bell Cross (Paris) graduated from Jefferson High School. He received a bachelor's degree in Sociology from Portland State University in Sociology and attended graduate school at Southern Illinois University.

As a high schooler he was corner back on the 1961 champion Jefferson football team. He won two mid-level U.S. AAU championships, was a member of the U.S. Olympic trials team in 1964 and the 1967 International Boxing team. He also accumulated a number of state and Northwest AAU titles.

Speaking of his candidacy Rahsaan said, "I feel I am the most qualified candidate to be your district advocate. I want to be your sounding board in bringing to the community the issues that will effect our neighborhood, our county and city, the changes that effect us socially, politically and economically. I have always had an interest in the political arena because of the tremendous effect politics play in our lives. Most people fail to get involved in politics until it starts to effect us directly and sometimes it is

too late to make any major modifications. I certainly will keep the people abreast of the latest developments which effect our neighborhood as well as our lives. This is the only true way I see of being your District Representative."

Rahsaan worked with Bob Booser in establishing the State's first affirmative action project. The federally funded pilot project was designed to bring minority people into state civil service.

Rahsaan then became the first Black hired by the Oregon Commission for the Blind as a vocational development analyst, placing visually handicapped persons in employment.

Since January of 1975, Rahsaan has been employed by Portland Community College as a team supervisor with the CETA I program. A second job is as counselor in a residential drug treatment program.

Current group affiliation consists of NAACP Oregon Jaycees, Advisory Board, Northwestern College of Business, Kiwanis (Swan Island Branch), Martin Luther King (Please turn to Page 8 Column 4)