

Curtis Ramsey seeks welterweight championship

Portland's newest hope for a World Championship in boxing is Curtis Ramsey, a Portland light-weight who will make his main event debut tonight. Manager Mike Morton says of his fighter, "Curtis has the talent and the ability to be a world champion. All he needs is the self confidence and the willingness to train."

Ramsey — with a 9-5-1 professional record — will meet Alan Webb, an undefeated welterweight for the National Welterweight Championship tonight. Ramsey, who usually fights in the lightweight division, will go against Webb at 143 pounds.

Although encouraged by some to remain an amateur until after the 1980 Olympic trials, Ramsey turned professional at the age of nineteen. "I couldn't wait. I could see that championship out there and was ready to start."

Ramsey is tense with anticipation today, but all that leaves when he enters the ring. "After the first blow everything else leaves my mind — I'm ready and eager and nothing else counts."

Is the fight a matter of reflexes? "No. It's thinking all the way. You have to be thinking fast — seeing his every move and adjusting for that move — thinking what to do to take

advantage of his mistakes — like running it all through a computer, constantly through the entire fight."

Ramsey explains that this is an important fight for him. "My record looks bad — five losses — but I should be undefeated. I lost those fights because I wasn't in shape." Morton explained that in previous fights Ramsey hasn't put in the necessary running so he tired in the later rounds. "When he beat Harvey Arnold, who had a 30-2 record, in Las Vegas I thought he was on his way. But he went into a slump and hasn't done well. It's all in the psychology of knowing you can do it. Psychologically, he wasn't

ready."

Psychologically he is ready this time. "This fight won't go ten rounds. I'll beat him before the end," Ramsey claims. "I'm ready for him. I'm in good condition. I'm sharp."

Ramsey, a native of Louisiana, came to Oregon with his family in 1969. He attended Ockley Green Elementary School and Jefferson High School, where he graduated in 1976. His mother is Lena Ramsey.

He became interested in boxing at the age of ten, when an acquaintance asked him to go to the gym and try it. He went on to win state Golden Gloves and in 1976 fought to the semi-finals in the Olympic trials.

Ramsey is currently a recruiter for the Northwest Minority Contractors Association's Youth Employment Program, where he recruits young people between the ages of 16 and 22 to be placed in training on jobs.

A win tonight will put Ramsey in a position to meet the leading lightweights including Howard Davis, the gold medalist for the 1976 Olympics, and eventually a shot at the championship now held by Roberto Duran.

The Ramsey-Webb match will be held on January 18th at 9:00 p.m. at the Jantzen Beach Arena, west of Jantzen Beach Center. Preliminary bouts begin at 8:00 p.m.



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Oregon Legislature honors King

Both Houses of the Oregon Legislature honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Monday, January 15th. Members of the Senate unanimously passed Senate Resolution #1, honoring Dr. King. Reverend John H. Jackson, Pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, led the opening prayer. Sponsors of the resolution, Senators Bill McCoy and Jan Wyers, as well as other Senators spoke about the efforts of Dr. King to strengthen and preserve human rights.

The resolution reads in part: Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in his quest for equity and justice as he called upon this nation to live by its own professed ideals; and Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., through his own willingness to jeopardize his physical well-being, demonstrated the necessity and ability of the individual to take direct action in achieving the rights of the individual; and Whereas his adherence to the principles of nonviolence in his crusade against the denial of human rights earned him the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize; and

Whereas Dr. King showed great service to our country in working with others to organize the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott after the refusal of Mrs. Rosa Parks to move to the back of the bus, and Whereas Dr. King touched the conscience of the entire nation and dramatized the needs of poor people in organizing with others the March on Washington in August of 1963, and

Whereas Dr. King strove for the rights of all peoples regardless of race, as evidenced by his efforts on behalf of the sanitation workers of Memphis, Tennessee, on the eve of his death; now, therefore, Be It Resolved by the Senate of the State of Oregon: That the members of the Senate of the State of Oregon honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on this, the anniversary of his birthday, January 15, 1929, for his dedicated efforts to strengthen and

preserve the rights of all human beings. Monday was proclaimed Dr. Martin Luther King Day by a unanimous vote of the House of Representatives. Sponsored by Representative Wally Priestley, the resolution reads: Whereas, Dr. Martin Luther King strove for the rights of all people, particularly those in need, and Whereas Dr. King showed great service to our country in working with others to organize the Montgomery, Alabama bus boycott after the refusal of Mrs. Rosa Parks to move to the back of the bus, and Whereas Dr. King touched the conscience of the entire nation and dramatized the needs of poor people in organizing with others the March on Washington in August of 1963, and

Whereas Dr. Martin Luther King was born on this date in 1929. Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Oregon that this day, January 15, 1979, be declared Dr. Martin Luther King Day in honor of his memory and the principles and ideals for which he stood.



Ruth Haefner, civil rights activist and Grey Panther, blows out her birthday candles. Ms. Haefner was honored on her 85th birthday. (Photo: Debra Mishler)



Miss Carmen M. Moore; Jerry Christianson, Supervisor Forestry Technician; and Dewey Tate, Forester, Estacada Ranger District, meet with young people during recruitment seminar sponsored by the Northwest Minority Contractors Association Youth Employment Program. The U.S. Forestry Service is recruiting for full and part-time employment. (Photo: Al Williams)

Parents question state textbooks

The Citizens for Public Education will appear before the State Board of Education today to protest adoption of approximately one-third of the text books selected for use in the state's public schools.

Jeff Nelson, co-chairman of the group, is concerned about the integrity of the books used by school children.

Some of the areas in which the group believe many books fail are:

- Value clarification vs education: "Value clarification" is seen as indoctrination of children in relativism or "situation ethics" — that is, that values are relative and depend on the situation. Nelson gave one example of a text that shows pictures of a child breaking a window and a child shooting a heron, and the question "Which is worse?" When children are taught that morality is relative or comes from group consensus, it destroys the values or the religious faith children learn at home.
- Affictive vs effective: Texts deal with "feelings" rather than facts. Questions tend to deal with, "How do you feel about it?" rather than

with factual events.

- Negativism: American history is taught in a negative manner with greater emphasis on the problems and failures — slavery, poverty, pollution, child labor, denial of women's rights, etc. — than on the ideals of the nation's founders or the goals of the Constitution.
- One text book was a series of problems, according to Nelson. "When I finished reading it I felt like this country was as bad as Cambodia or Vietnam, as if we were slaughtering thousands of people. That is the negative impression it left with me and I'm concerned about the impression it must give students."
- Nelson believes the teaching of American history should be factual but balanced so students learn the good as well as the bad.
- Free enterprise vs Planned Society: Some texts advocate government controls and promote laws and government programs rather than private solutions.
- Interdependence vs Dependence: Texts promote the dependence of the US on other nations and look toward a "One World Government".

Nelson is concerned that children are taught the cultures of other nations before they learn American history. He is concerned about the choice of cultures, whether those with positive principles are taught. For example, one group leaves its elderly on the ice to die. He questions whether a person learning this as a young child would find it easier to accept euthanasia in this society.

"I want children to get the very best education possible," Nelson explained. "Education should provide respect for the individual and the idea that all persons far valuable and equal."

The second annual Call to Action Leadership Workshop will be held on January 27th at the Keg and Platter, Salem, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Focus will be on major organizations in the Black community, communications, 1979 legislation, and the development of responsiveness, accountability and productivity.

Asbestos: The quiet killer

Modern industrialization — new chemicals, the nuclear industry, radiation — introduces new hazards to the nation's workers. In the United States, more than 14,000 deaths on the job and about 2.2 million disabling injuries are recorded each year, and a recent report estimates that the actual figures might be as high as 25,000 deaths and 25 million injuries.

These figures do not include the many occupational diseases that slowly cripple and kill thousands of workers. In 1968, the former Surgeon General of the U.S., Dr. William H. Stewart told a Congressional Committee that 65 percent of the industrial workers in the nation are exposed to toxic materials or harmful physical conditions.

One of the most dangerous air contaminants in industry is asbestos. Unlike many work hazards, asbestos can be a danger not only to the

worker but to his family and community.

In April of 1978, the United States government announced that approximately eleven million Americans had been exposed to asbestos since 1940, and advised the 4.5 million men and women who worked in the shipyards during the war to contact their physicians to detect cancer and asbestos. The nation's doctors were advised of the potential dangers of asbestos exposure and given information about detection and treatment of those diseases.

Dr. Ivory Selikoff of Mount Sinai Hospital in New York estimates that of about 500,000 persons employed with asbestos, 100,000 will die of lung cancer; 35,000 of abdominal or chest cancers; and about 35,000 of asbestosis.

Asbestos is a mineral consisting of fibers so fine that they can float in the air indefinitely. The fibers are so

fine that they can be inhaled. Once lodged in the lungs the body forms scar tissue around them. As the scars grow and accumulate the lungs fill up and lose their capacity to transfer oxygen to the bloodstream.

Asbestosis usually appears from ten to twenty years after exposure to asbestos.

Asbestos is also one of the most potent cancer-causing substances. Asbestos workers contact cancer at about three times the rate of persons not exposed to asbestos. Lung cancer 92 times more prevalent in asbestos workers who smoke as in the general public that does not smoke. Other asbestos related cancers affect the stomach, esophagus, kidney, larynx, rectum or large intestine. Cancer does not usually develop until from 20 to 40 years after exposure.

Mesothelioma, a cancer of the membrane lining of the lungs or abdominal cavity, is found only in persons who have been exposed to

asbestos. Mesothelioma appears from 20 to 40 years after exposure and is fatal within two years after the first symptoms appear.

Because symptoms of asbestos related diseases take from ten to forty years to appear, the long range effects of asbestos exposure are still unknown. The increase in the use of asbestos increases the dangers. Currently 90,000 people work in asbestos related employment and asbestos is found everywhere. Asbestos is used in building materials, brake linings, textiles, and many other products.

Asbestos is more dangerous than many work-related hazards because it can affect people who work in adjacent areas. It also can be brought home to the family on the workers' clothing or body. The fibers are almost undetectable and have been found in homes twenty years after they were brought home.

Persons who have been exposed

on the job or suspect they may have been exposed through a family member, should have regular check-ups to enable earlier detection of asbestos caused diseases.

Symptoms include: shortness of breath; cough or change in cough pattern; coughing up blood; pain in the chest or abdomen; difficulty in swallowing or prolonged hoarseness; rapid weight loss.

Since smoking greatly increases the chance of contracting cancer, there is evidence that persons who give up smoking might reduce the risk of cancer by half. Persons who suspect they might have been exposed to asbestos at any time in their lives should not smoke.

Dr. Phillip L. Polakoff, Director of the Western Institute for Occupational/ Environmental Science, Inc. of Berkeley, spoke to a conference on asbestos presented by the Oregon Lung Association last week.

Speaking to workers, union representatives and employers, Dr. Polakoff advised the workers to organize for safer working conditions and for added research on occupational diseases.

"People should have a right to a healthy job environment," he said. He advised workers to document work hazards, to research the available material and to insist that union contractors include funds for health research and that union officials give attention to occupational hazards.

OSHA, he said, attempts to enforce health and safety regulations but is hampered by an adverse climate, limited resources and management hostility. Union officials often put jobs ahead of health safety.

Since the government and employers don't usually act in areas that are not profitable, it will be up to the workers themselves to insure enforcement of health and safety requirements.