

EDITORIAL/OPINION



ACT-SO presents youth talent

by Herb L. Cawthorne

Watch their votes!

The Oregon House of Representatives evaded their responsibility to vote on an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow the residents of the District of Columbia the right to elect two U.S. Senators and a Representative. Instead they voted to submit the question to the people of Oregon as an "advisory vote." The people's vote has no legal standing since only the Legislature can make the decision.

The Senate — which had already passed the bill — refused to concur with the House and a compromise between the two positions will have to be made. The members of the Senate and the two Senators who led the effort in the Senate — Bill McCoy and Jim Gardner — deserve our thanks.

Some legislators are opposed to granting the American citizens who live in Washington the basic right to vote that all other citizens have. Others are afraid to vote on what they consider a

controversial issue. Whatever their motive they should be remembered.

Those voting for referring the Constitutional Amendment to a vote of the people were: Ted Achilles, Bill Bellamy, Robert Brogotti, Ted Bugas, Bud Byers, Larry Campbell, Drew Davis, Jack Duff, Chick Edwards, Mary Alice Ford, Mark Gardner, Jeff Gilmore, Bill Grannell, Paul Hannemon, Cecil Johnson, Eldon Johnson, Denny Jones.

Kip Lombard, Caroline Magruder, Bill Markham, Al Riebel, Max Rijken, Bill Rogers, John Schoon, Josephine Simpson, Max Simpson, Norm Smith, Doc Stevenson, Tony Van Vliet, Glen Whallon, Gary Wilhelms, Curt Wolfer, Donna Zajonc.

Remember those names because you will see them repeatedly voting on the wrong side of issues that are of special concern and importance to this community.

Mark your calendars! Plan an evening out! This coming Monday, May 7th, at 7:00 p.m., the annual NAACP Academic Cultural Technical — Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) will be held at the King Facility Auditorium. This is a program worthy of your support.

Portland was introduced to the ACT-SO Program in a first-hand manner last summer. The NAACP convention held its first competitive artistic and academic olympics here during its 69th annual gathering. It was a special honor to host the convention; the opportunity to be among the finest young talent Black America has to offer was an added treat.

From all over the country they came to display their talents. A pianist from Philadelphia, a sculptor from Nashville, a painter from San Francisco, a filmmaker from Florida, a dancer from Boston — young Black youth came from far and wide to bathe in the glory of appreciation from their people. It was exciting. Those who are constantly demeaning the future of Black America by constantly demeaning the commitment of Black youth

found no iota of proof for their faithless predictions.

The ACT-SO program helps Black people work in harmony with others in our community to encourage the highest development of the talents our youth have to share. It is rooted in a sound principle: There is no better means to foster high achievement and competent development among our youth than to get Black adults deeply involved in working with the young. ACT-SO says to the community, "Take this child by the hand, be strict and firm and yet be kind, but guide these talents to their fullest heights." It is a meaningful message the result of which we will be fortunate enough to see this Monday evening.

The ACT-SO program is popular, says Gladys McCoy, this year's chairperson. "By comparison, last year's program had about a dozen applicants; this year there are more than 52 and they come from every high school in the district." Next year she hopes to get an earlier start and involve more students, parents, coaches and public school teachers in the program.

Mark that calendar! Don't forget!

This Monday evening, May 7th, you'll have a chance to hear Genatta Williams of Cleveland High sing. Tamala Lowe of Grant will read her poetry. Jefferson's Beverly Hughes will dance, while Marshall's Gwendolyn Woody will demonstrate her research skills with a sketch on the greatness of Paul Robeson. These are just a few of the many young people who have worked hard to bring their talents to perfect pitch so they might be worthy of representing their city in the national competition in Louisville, Kentucky this summer.

I believe in ACT-SO. It is a positive program. To promote it's worth, Benjamin Hooks does not have to galeant around the country preaching about the evil influence our children suffer from drugs, sexy records, and too much television. He does not have to characterize Black parents as uncommitted and Black children as unmotivated. Instead, he labors to encourage each of us to challenge and nurture the eager talents abundant in our community.

Join us, Monday evening, May 7th at 7:00 p.m. for the ACT-SO Competition sponsored by the Portland Branch of the NAACP.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia — whither now?

by N. Fungai Kumbula



The Rhodesian elections are over now and, as expected, Bishop Abel Muzorewa won a majority of the 72 seats allocated to the Blacks. Smith and the whites had already won the 28 seats reserved for whites who make up less than 4% of the population. In the four way race for the Black seats, Muzorewa won 52 of the 72 seats. His main rival, Ndabani Sithole, won only 12. "Chief" Chirau, a nobody whom Smith tried so desperately to make into a "somebody", a stooge actually, did not win a single seat — not even in his home district! Kayisa Ndiweni, his former deputy who broke with him shortly before the election, won the last 9.

A few hours before the election results started coming in, Sithole had been ranting and raving about "what a fair election it was, an exercise in democracy, Africa had never seen such democratic elections." At that time, he was predicting he would win at least 50 seats. When the results started coming in and he realized how badly he was doing, he suddenly changed his tune. Now he is charging "massive fraud and coercion by the Ministry of the Interior." Obviously if he had won then the elections would have been "free and fair."

As we have said all along, the elections will change nothing. A Muzorewa government (he will take office later this month) will be little different than the present regime. The whites will retain control of the army, the police force, the judiciary,

the civil service, the economy, just to mention a few. Smith, who is guaranteed a cabinet post in the "new" government is demanding the Ministry of Justice, Law and Order! So, to all intents and purposes, the present concept of "justice", "law" and "order" will be carried over into the new administration. This certainly gives a whole new meaning to the old saying: 'The more things change, the more they stay the same.'

While the mood in Zimbabwe is generally one of "wait and see", a number of things are already patent. Clear first and foremost is the breakup of the unholy alliance that on the 3rd of March last year signed this sellout agreement. The three Black "moderates" who so far had clung together and to Smith for political survival are now turning against one another. Sithole, spurned by the guerrillas and repudiated by the voters, is finished politically. Chirau, the nobody, will just slide off into oblivion. For him, that shouldn't be too hard. Matter of fact, it should be as easy as eating banana pie. Ndiweni, who won the last 9 seats, does not seem to be headed anywhere but to oblivion.

The alliance between Muzorewa and Smith has been showing some signs of strain. Shortly after the elections, Smith delivered a veiled warning to Muzorewa not to tamper with the entrenched clauses — the ones intended to perpetrate white privileges. He has hinted that, to maintain what Black support he had, Muzorewa

might be pressured to scuttle the current constitution for one that would severely restrict white privileges. This fear on Smith's part is not without foundation: there will be a lot of pressure on Muzorewa to do away with those entrenched clauses.

Meantime, the war will rage on. Muzorewa has promised to end the fighting. Apparently, he must have been thinking that the war is some form of a faucet that he can turn on or off at will. He promised to end the war last March when he first signed the internal agreement with Smith. So far he has not delivered because, on that score, he cannot deliver.

He is reportedly putting out feelers to the Front Line states of Angola, Botswana, Zambia, Mozambique and Tanzania to initiate some form of economic cooperation. At the same time, he is also insisting that he will maintain economic and diplomatic ties with South Africa — Africa's nemesis. Even though these Southern African countries are unfortunately economically interdependent, it is unlikely the Front Line states would deal with a Muzorewa government in its present form. So, what will happen is that the people in all these countries will continue to experience severe economic difficulties due to the intangibility of one United Methodist Church bishop.

Again, we hold our breath as we wait to see which way the wind will blow.

Letters

Not us!

To the Editor:

The Church of Scientology has scheduled a program for senior citizens on May 7th at the Masonic Temple in Portland. In its press releases, brochures, etc. it is indicated that the event is in cooperation with the City-County Commission on Aging.

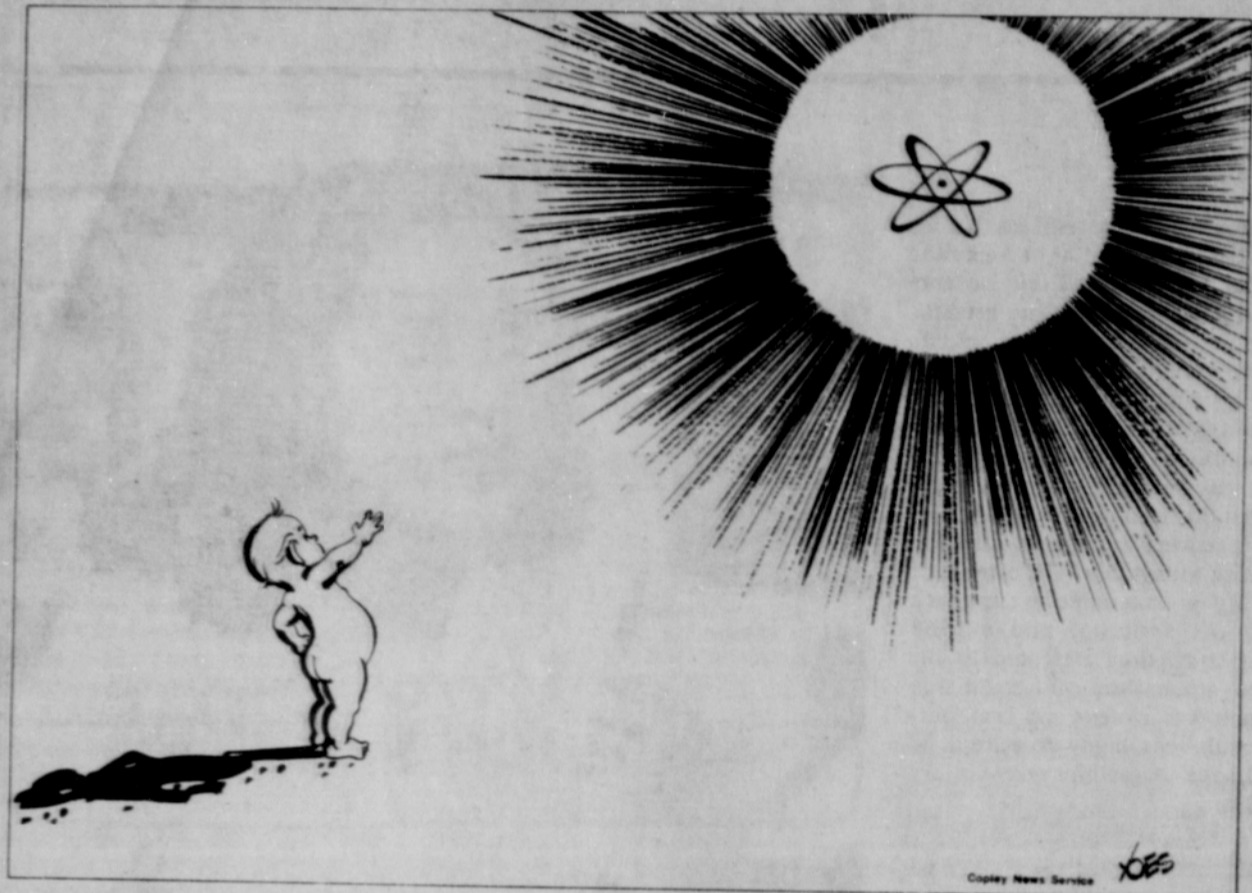
We strongly regret that the Church of Scientology would use the Commission in this unauthorized fashion to promote its activities. The Commission on Aging emphatically disclaims any affiliation with this event.

Osly Gates,
Executive Director,
City-County Commission on Aging



Without your help, we can't afford to win.

(Next week: King ECE) Make tax deductible check payable to U.S. Olympic, P.O. Box 1980-P, Cathedral Station, Boston, MA 02118



THE YEAR OF THE CHILD?

Sears challenges government regulations

(Continued from page 1 col. 6) dicap, and

-- Bar Federal agencies from seeking back pay or other damages from Sears and its class until they have made compliance possible.

Sears is America's largest retailer and accounts for one per cent of the gross national product, with sales of 17.9 billion in fiscal 1978. It had 395,200 employees in January of this year, 13.6 per cent of which were minority and 57 per cent female.

Blacks make up 7.3 per cent of the officials and managers; 6.1 per cent of the professionals; 11.9 per cent of the technicians; 11.3 per cent of the sales workers; 13.4 per cent of the clerical and office workers; 9.2 per cent of craft workers; 19.9 per cent of operators; 23 per cent of laborers; and 32.3 per cent of service workers.

This is an increase of from 5.9 per cent Black workers in 1966 to 13.6 in 1979. Asian Americans make up .9 per cent of the Sears work force; Indian/Alaska Natives are .3 per cent; Hispanics 5.2 per cent.

The local Sears operation has, in employment statistics to the *Observer*. According to Casterline, that is the company's national policy. Statistics are released only on a nationwide basis.

In August of 1973, the Chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission (EEOC) charged Sears with discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex and national origin. On April 19, 1977, EEOC found reasonable cause to believe Sears was in violation of section 703, Title VII, by discriminating against Blacks, women and Spanish surnamed Americans, with regard to recruitment, hiring, employment, selection procedures, job assignment, promotion, transfer, training, compensation, layoff, benefits and other terms and conditions of employment.

In January of 1978 Sears' model affirmative action plan was approved and in April of 1979 the government notified Sears that it would conduct an on-site review of the plan. In April Sears declared that it will no longer seek contracts with the government and charged the government with harassment.

Casterline writes, "This suit was filed in an attempt to require the government to get its bureaucratic mess straightened out, its conflicting priorities resolved, its erratic and unfair enforcement of the law consistent and fair, its adversarial and punitive posture changed to one of encouragement, example, and

cooperation where warranted; and by accomplishing this, Sears believes equal opportunity will become a reality instead of a promise.

"We believe it obvious that the court will support the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and that no court would take action to do anything other than improve the implementation of the law and to clarify the law, where needed. This is precisely what Sears has requested. The questions raised by the suit are not whether equal opportunity is proper but rather how can it be more fairly, equitably, and effectively implemented."

"Regardless of the outcome of the suit, Sears will continue to aggressively pursue the goal of equal opportunity within the Company."

How do those Sears purports to aid with its suit feel about it? Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director, said, "The NAACP regards the suit as not only highly unusual, but we feel it is a skillful public relations maneuver aimed at preempting impending action that the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) was about to take against Sears. One pertinent fact is that Sears filed the suit the day that EEOC notified the company of its 'failure to conciliate' of employee's (Please turn to page 3 col. 3)



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