



Behind the Wall

Larry Baker #35021,
O.S.P. Correspondent

This Correspondent doesn't know much about the gasoline crisis, nor much about the energy crunch, but is fully aware of a statement supplied by Jackie Winters, Assistant to the Governor of Oregon, Victor Atiyeh.

Governor Atiyeh proclaimed the month of April 1979 officially "NAACP Membership Month."

It has been less than a year since Benjamin Hooks, national Executive Director of the NAACP, stood before a room filled with inmates, prison officials, community people and the press talking of the values and deeds of this great organization.

I personally was fortunate enough to shake the hand of this great leader I will never forget one of his statements that morning, "I hope someday I can return to the State of

Oregon and to this Penitentiary knowing that there is an NAACP Branch established within its walls."

On April 12, 1979 the newly elected NAACP President of the Salem Branch, Al Martin, announced at a Banquet honoring Jackie Winters, former President, that the Salem Branch would try to work toward Benjamin Hooks' "hope."

Following is Governor Atiyeh's proclamation:

In 1909 a group of Black and white citizens in Niagara, New York, joined together to form an organization to combat racial injustice in America. That organization became known as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The NAACP has grown steadily

since then and today is the largest and most influential civil rights organization in the country covering all of the 50 states and several foreign locations.

In order to keep pace with the changing times, the NAACP has launched a number of dynamic social programs that are still combating racial hatred, bigotry and poverty in the United States.

More than 35,000 persons of Afro-American descent live in the State of Oregon and are currently striving to destroy barriers to equality for Black Oregonians. Considerable progress has been made but racism is still undefeated.

The strength of the NAACP lies in its members, organized into nearly 1,700 branches throughout the coun-

try; four of which are situated in Oregon (Salem, Portland, Corvallis and Eugene). The State of Oregon acknowledges the efforts and the programs of the Oregon branches of the NAACP.

Therefore, as Governor of Oregon, I proclaim April, 1979, as "Official NAACP Membership Month in Oregon."

In addition, because I believe Oregonians cannot and will not be content until every vestige of racial bigotry is eliminated in our state; I strongly urge you to join with me in becoming members of an organization that has fought through the years to realize the goal of full equality for all of America's citizens.

Vic Atiyeh
Governor

Black prisoners lecture subject

Omwale Kefing will speak at Arbuckle Flat on Sunday, May 6th, at 7:30 p.m. on "Black People: A Nation Behind Bars." The evening will also include a slide show on the death penalty and will include an update on the status of some political prisoners in this country and a report on the conditions of local prisons. It has been estimated, for instance, that Blacks are one percent of Oregon's population and are twenty percent of the prison population.

Omwale Kefing is a member of the African People's Socialist Party, a political party for Afro-Americans. He has speaking engagements around the country in order to help people understand the current position of

Black people in our society in general and of Blacks in prison specifically.

He is also doing grass roots organizing to build a national political active support network for Blacks in prison called the African National Prison Organization. There are already chapters in Louisville, Atlanta and San Francisco. The event is an excellent way for people to learn another example of institutional racism, for Blacks to come together to take action, and for non-Blacks to give support to the prison organization and do whatever possible to help end racism in this country. For more information call 287-8456.

This event is open to the public. A donation of \$2 is requested.

Vet project aids prisoners

NEW YORK — A \$7,596 National Council of Churches grant has been awarded to Portland Military and Veteran Counseling Center, for a program to aid imprisoned Vietnam era veterans.

The grant is part of Department of Labor funding to the National Council of Churches to conduct a year-long nationwide incarcerated Veterans Project. Most of the money will be channeled to veterans' self-help groups working in prisons to assist in providing education and employment counseling; job development and placement; benefits and disability claims counseling; discharge review services; drug and alcohol rehabilitation; psychological readjustment assistance; all to the purpose of removing impediments to jobs, enhancing incarcerated veterans' employment, and lowering recidivism rates.

Named project director of Portland Military & Veterans Counseling Center received the grant because of

be enhanced.

The protest movements have made us aware of the problems of minority hiring, training and promotion in American journalism. Now a process — an affirmative, consistent, long-ranged, committed process — must be developed within the structure of newspaper management to make the gains more significant and most lasting.

Cookbook

(Continued from page 1 col. 6)

family were: "Aunt Lil of Virginia, an octogenarian who couldn't remember any of her cooking recipes, but who could remember her beauty cream recipes!"

"There was 94-year-old Aunt Maude in Opelaki, Alabama who reminisced about George Washington Carver's favorite Peanut Butter ice cream. There are herbal cures, natural beauty tips, photographs and memories, but," the Dardens' point out, "the central focus is on food, simply because dining and celebrating events in the family-style, they are today as they have been always, an important element of the Black family tradition."

Both Norma Jean and Carole are graduates of Sarah Lawrence College. Norma Jean is a script-writer, an actress and a former fashion model who has appeared in *McCall's*, *Essence* and *Vogue* magazines.

Carole Darden is a child therapist and, until recently, was the social work administrator at Wiltsyck School for Boys.

Norma Jean is the Darden sister who came to Portland to introduce "Spoon Bread and Strawberry Wine" to the Northwest. This beautiful and charming author is also spreading the word, wherever she goes in her travels, to one and all: "Treasure your family traditions. Tell your children about them. Better yet, put as much as you can down on paper, for the day may come when some family member will want to know the interesting stories that you have to tell."

"Be brief when you cannot be good."

St. Francis De Sales

"Few are those who err on the side of self-restraint."

Confucius

"A poet can survive anything but a misprint."

Oscar Wilde

Minorities and the Press

(Continued from Page 1 Column 6)

and promoting minorities seem unable to grasp the fact that minority exclusion was not the result of a lack of ambition or individual initiative — but the result of discrimination. In a highly competitive profession, the process was unfair and maliciously slanted. There was and still remain unique and firmly institutionalized efforts to keep minority people out of journalism; now there must be unique and firmly institutionalized programs to combat the destructive effects.

The results of excluding ethnic people of color are more destructive than most would imagine: the political expression, the accurate reflection, and the stimulation of minorities communities are stifled.

When Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native American representatives are absent from the newsroom, the political ideals and solutions of those people are often frustrated for lack of timely expression. The power of expression translates into direct political influence. Accurate information and differing perspectives can persuade individuals. This persuasion, when measured collectively, can add substance and sensitivity to the body politic. True democracy demands a balanced press.

No matter how objective good reporters strive to be, most acknowledge quite readily that their research and writing are full of the biases of

their life experiences. If minority reporters have the chance to ask the questions, it is more likely that news will be reported with more careful recognition of the unique viewpoints of the people who understand the color discrimination and prejudice in our land.

Moreover, the accurate reflection of minority cultures and problems is as valuable to the white population as it is to the people of color. We must all be consistently reminded that America is a land of differences and that the melding of these differences, with a spirit of joy and respect and tolerance, is at one our greatest challenge and our greatest strength.

If more editors and publishers would see this problem with vision, the day will soon come when there will be no need for affirmative programs to undo the negative exclusion of the past. In the past, minority children became wise to the subtle message given by the newspaper industry — "there is no room for your kind, not because you cannot perform, but because we do not want you." No doubt, the overt discrimination served to weaken the hopeful motivation needed for children to reach their aspirations through hard work and personal sacrifice. With equal chances minority journalists will perform with equal quality and the power, accuracy and influence of the press will

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(signed) DISAPPOINTED

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WEIGHT WATCHERS The Authority

★ ★ ★
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(Nursing Home)
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CARPENTERS HALL
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Mon. 7:00 p.m.
Thurs. 9:30 a.m.

MARANATHA CHURCH
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Sat. 9:30 a.m.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Join before May 14 and weekly dues will be \$3.50* for as long as you maintain membership. New member and rejoin weekly rate — \$4.00 beginning May 14th. Registration fee unchanged at \$5.00.

* Offer good only in Franchise #083.

For information call COLLECT Portland (503) 297-1021.
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MAY 1979

EXODUS GROWS

Reports its Director Rosalie Boothe

1. EXODUS is implementing Portland's first community-based Youth Theatre Alcohol Awareness Project, this project is funded by the Department of Labor.
2. EXODUS through its community Advisory Council will implement the "EXODUS Forum", which is an information sharing service to the community. The first forum presentation will be held at 12:30 p.m., May 17, 1979 at EXODUS Day-Treatment Center.
3. EXODUS has also grown to develop the "EXODUS Women Forum" which is composed of women in treatment of alcoholism, from care units, Portland hospitals, institutions, educational centers and agencies.
4. EXODUS graduated its third class on the "Triple R Concept" (Rights, Respect and Responsibility concept), April 7, 1979.

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