

VOTE

There is a persistent rumor afoot, carefully nurtured by the media, that a major portion of the country's citizens will not vote this November. The public has been told for months that they have no real choice, that they dislike both candidates, that there is no reason to vote.

Is this a media campaign to discourage certain classes of voters, or is it just easier than reporting on

the issues? One thing is certain -- the rapidly growing right wing will vote for their candidate, Ronald Reagan.

This is a crucial election; the nation is in a serious economic crisis and the world is on the brink of war. Perhaps for the first time since 1964, the major presidential candidates offer the voters clear choices in terms of their philosophies, programs and personalities. The voters cannot afford to ignore these

choices.

Since the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 Black political influence has been substantial, sometimes decisive, in many areas of direct concern to Blacks. Blacks have exerted enormous political influence in getting and protecting programs that benefit them and other minorities.

There is a traditional link between political participation and the distribution of public benefits. Therefore, the special attention that Blacks have devoted to political empowerment over the past twenty years, is expressed in one of the programs that are of special interest -- jobs programs, aid to cities, minority business opportunities, affirmative action regulations, etc. Quite often these programs do

not reach those for whom they were intended, so it is important for Blacks and other minorities to exert political influence not just on the national level but on the state and local level as well.

Eddie N. Williams, President of the Joint Center for Political Studies, offers the following political realities for consideration when deciding whether to register and vote.

1. Former U.S. Senator Edward Brooke often emphasized this political fact: "Political power and public office have been the keys which opened the doors of opportunity for various groups in America since the founding of our country. What is new in our day, however, is the use of political power and public office in pursuing the hopes and

aspirations of Black people."

2. In one way or another, the political process affects our lives from birth to death. Some even say from conception to resurrection!

3. Under these circumstances, it makes sense to want to do everything possible to elect officials whose philosophies, programs and personalities are most in harmony with our own. By the same token, it makes sense to defeat those candidates who are out of sync with our hopes and aspirations.

4. Since in every election somebody wins and somebody loses, our self-interests are best served when the candidates we favor win and the ones we oppose lose.

5. The only way to make sure this happens is to amass as many votes as possible for the candidates, who

despite any shortcomings they may have, appear to be the best choices for us at the time. If enough voters feel the same way about a candidate, a winner emerges and the basis is established for making demands on that person.

6. In addition to the presidency, numerous congressional, state, and local offices are at stake this fall, and they, too, have enormous influence over our lives and livelihood. We should examine these candidates in the same way we examine the presidential contenders; of all the choices available in every race, which one, despite any shortcomings, appears to be the most in line with our thinking?

7. Even before the votes are cast and counted on November 4th, a (Please turn to page 3 col. 4)

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Robert Phillips of the Albina Voter Registration and Education Committee (AVREC) (left in top picture) and Bob Boyer, president of the Portland Chapter of the A. Phillip Randolph Institute, explain voter registration procedures and regulations to volunteers Cheryl Palmore and

Stanley Denbo. Operation Big Vote, a coalition of community organizations, is conducting a house-to-house voter registration campaign urging residents to register and vote.

(Photos: Richard J. Brown)

Death penalty appeal goes to UN

Willy Brandt, Pierre Trudeau and Morarji Desai were among thousands of prominent people around the world who joined in an appeal to the United Nations October 22nd for international action to abolish the death penalty, Amnesty International said.

The appeal presented at United Nations Headquarters in New York was signed by people in more than 100 countries, including religious and labor leaders, scientists, doctors, artists and writers.

International celebrities joined local and community leaders in declaring the death penalty incompatible with fundamental human rights -- the rights to life and to protection against cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment.

More than 600 members of parliament, over 1,000 members of the medical profession, and more than 70 judges were among over 150,000 who put their names to the appeal, which is part of Amnesty International's program of action for worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

Six heads of government signed: Thorbjorn Falldin (Sweden), Anker Jorgensen (Denmark), Mauno Koivisto (Finland), Bruno Kreisky (Austria), Helmut Schmidt (Federal

Republic of Germany) and Mr. Trudeau (Canada).

Amnesty International has repeatedly appealed to the U.N. for abolition of the penalty. It told the U.N. Economic and Social Council in April 1980 that the death penalty. It told the U.N. Economic and Social Council in April 1980 that the death

penalty had never been proved to deter crime more effectively than other punishments, that it was inflicted disproportionately on the poor, and that it had often been used for political, racial, religious and ethnic oppression. Since that appeal in April, more than 700 people have been executed.

Sterling Brown reads poetry

Two nationally recognized poets will read selections of their work at Lewis and Clark College Monday, October 27, and Tuesday, October 28.

Sterling Brown will appear at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Agnes Flanagan Chapel. Michael Harper will read at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday in Tamarack Lounge. Admission is free and open to the public.

Brown was born in 1901 on the campus of Howard University in Washington, D.C., where his father was campus minister and professor of theology.

He studied at Williams College and Harvard University before returning to Howard, where he has taught for more than 50 years.

Brown is said to be the first American Black poet to use dialect

to express the stoic conditions of blacks. His collection of poetry, *Southern Road*, was published in 1932, followed by several essays and other works including *The Negro in Washington*, *Negro Poetry and Drama*, *The Negro in American Fiction* and *The Negro Caravan*.

His latest volume is *The Collected Poems of Sterling A. Brown*, the first in a National Poetry Series funded by James Michener.

Michael Harper, born in 1938 in Brooklyn, New York, graduated from high school and college in Los Angeles before he began to write poetry. In 1971 he was nominated for a National Book Award in poetry. A graduate of the University of Iowa Writers Workshop, he now teaches at Brown University.

African student continues study

Like a story with a happy ending? Portland Community College student Michael Lekoetje has one.

Lekoetje, a second-year optical technology student at the PCC Cascade Center who lives in the St. John's area, was having a rough time finding a way to finish the two-year program last spring.

He had come to Portland from the so-called "Black ruled" country of Lesotho, which is land-locked by South Africa on every side. Lekoetje was sponsored by a Washington ophthalmologist who had trained Lekoetje as an assistant at the Maluti Hospital in Lesotho.

When Lekoetje learned to make glasses through the PCC program, he would be the only optician for his home country of nearly one million people.

Lekoetje studied hard his first year at PCC.

"He is an excellent student," Maurice Merrick, manager of the optical technology program said.

Members of the University Park Seventh Day Adventist Church helped Lekoetje. A family in St. John's offered him a room in their home. The doctor who brought Lekoetje to the United States helped fund his college costs.

Then those helping Lekoetje had personal financial reverses. There wasn't enough money for Lekoetje to finish school. And in May a visitor dropped by the PCC Cascade Center, the chairman of the board of directors of the Maluti Hospital in Lesotho, with concerns about whether a place would be waiting for the Black African in the hospital when he returned.

The situation looked bleak for Lekoetje. No funds, no job, lack of

a job promise back home.

"I was committed to helping him finish," Merrick said.

Merrick contacted the local newspapers through the college's public information office. Several papers ran the story of Lekoetje's problems finishing his education, and a story in the St. John's Review was read by a manager in the

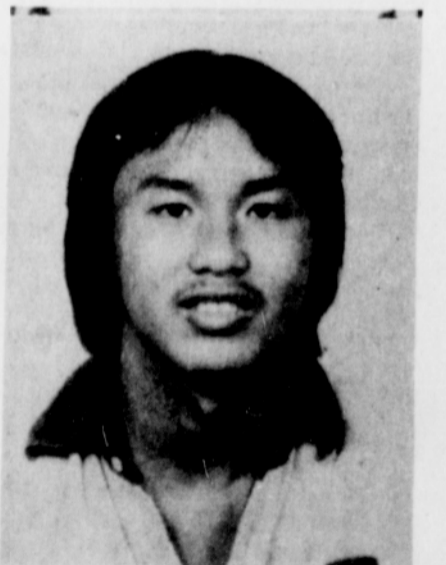
Hewlett Packard Corporation in Vancouver, Washington. He called the college.

In August Lekoetje began a 20-hour a week job with Hewlett Packard and in late September he began classes for his second year of studies at PCC.

Lekoetje was offered the position (Please turn to page 12 col. 4)



RHONDA BROWN



LAM NGUYEN

Students win Reynolds grants

The 1980 winners of the Phil Reynolds Memorial Scholarships are Rhonda Brown of Washington-Monroe High School and Lam Nguyen of Madison High School.

tend Portland State University. Each winner has worked a year or more in his field of interest which has helped the student to mature and to choose a definite career.

Each has won \$500.00 to help with tuition and fees. Miss Brown is pursuing a Dental Hygiene Course with her final goal Orthodontic Dentistry at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Mr. Nguyen is interested in Electronic Engineering and plans to at-

Walter Reynolds, states that a minority student graduating in May or June, 1981 with a financial need, above average grades, and a definite career choice in mind -- may see his/her counselor for an application or write him c/o 6909 S.E. 42nd, Portland, Oregon 97206.