

Dorothea Rounds: Miss Tan Portland



DOROTHEA ROUNDS

Grassroots News, N.W.—The Miss Tan Portland pageant was recently held at the Hilton and the winner that arose from this year's competition was Dorothea Rounds, 17. A graduate from Lincoln High, Dorothea explains the concept behind the pageant: "Miss Tan means Truly American Negro. It deals in glorifying the Black Woman and it shows that Black beauty comes in many shapes and sizes."

The contestants were judged on evening gowns, swimming suits and talent. Dorothea's true gifts came to light in the talent category, where her visual and audio portrayal of Margaret Walker's "For My People," scored the highest points. "I came out humming and dressed as an old slave woman with those brim glasses and a rag tied around my head. At this point the audience was laughing but as soon as I began the poem it got real quiet. I was nervous but I put my nerves into the act so it gave the appearance of an old lady shaking. After the poem, the old lady died."

To qualify as a contestant all that

was required was an application. "I had to stay on in there. Some Portland women say that they can't do. That they have no talent. But they just neglect to bring it out. You have to develop your own."

Miss Tan Portland, 1981, received prizes and gifts worth over \$15,000, a scholarship and a cash prize. "I'm not sure about all that I've won but I've won something and the gifts keep coming in."

How does Dorothea feel about the criteria for beauty? "Some judges would have liked me to be real skinny. But there are certain things that Black women have that's really us. You know, hips are just part of our natural beauty."

This Fall Dorothea plans to attend Oregon Institute of Technology. "Computers is the world of tomorrow. I work on a word processor and I wonder what makes it do the things it does. I know it's going to be tough, but OIT is the best." Her major will be Computer Systems Engineering.

Miss Tan is the brainchild of

Jimmy "Bang Bang" Walker, former radio personality and proprietor of cleaning products. "We used to put on fashion shows in 1963. That's how I became familiar with pageantry. In 1965 we had our first Miss Tan. Sometimes we get more criticism than support. We want to bring the beauty of our women out. Too often we knock ourselves. I can see in the next five years the Vietnamese going further than Blacks because they stick together. When ever one of us tries to do anything, we stab one another in the back. You know, we do have support and we don't have support. Money is not the underlying thing with me because I always share with my fellow man."

Miss Tan has had time to look back and reflect. "Being a winner—it's a goal that I accomplished. I gained a lot of knowledge and maturity. It's an honor and an opportunity to represent the Black Community. It took a lot of confidence for all the girls to come out and compete and because of that everyone's a winner."

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Black Congressman adopts South African organizer

Washington, D.C.—Congressman George W. Crockett, Jr. of Michigan has confirmed that he has "adopted" Mr. Dumile Makanda, a Black trade union leader in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. The adoption, arranged in cooperation with the Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Southern Africa, will involve Congressman Crockett's continuing interest and involvement in Mr. Makanda's situation.

Makanda, who is Chairman of the Macwusa Trade Union in South Africa, was in the process of negotiating for thousands of Black workers employed by Ford, Firestone and General Motors in their South African plants when he was arrested by South African police under the "Internal Security Act." Mr. Makanda, according to the South African Police, was travelling within South Africa, although not in his "homeland," and had no "passport." Three other members of Macwusa were also arrested with Mr. Makanda. South African Police claim that Mr. Makanda's arrest is unrelated to his union activities.

Congressman Crockett, who is now travelling with a Congressional delegation in Africa, visited South Africa recently. He requested a meeting with Mr. Makanda during his visit; it is unclear whether he was able to meet with him. The Congressman did, however, attempt to visit a settlement of "squatters"—homeless Black workers—outside Cape Town, South Africa. He, and the other Members of Congress with him, were turned back by South African Police, who then burned the settlement to the ground.

Before this incident, Congressman Crockett had stated that: "The arrest and detention of Mr. Makanda and his associates are intolerable. I am personally concerned for Mr. Makanda's safety and the elimination of the racist detention procedures of South African Police; I am also concerned that U.S. corporations adhere to decent standards of employment. I know many

of my constituents in Detroit share this concern. We live in the area where many of these American companies have substantial interests, and my constituents are actively concerned about social and political conditions in South Africa and the role of U.S. corporations in those conditions. Through this adoption, I will help focus attention on the plight of Mr. Makanda, and will express my concern, and that of my constituents, for his well-being, and that of his family."

The Ad Hoc Monitoring Group on Southern Africa, which is sponsoring the "adoption," is a bipartisan group of Members of Congress who are concerned about U.S. policy in southern Africa. Last year the Group initiated a Political Prisoner Project in response to South Africa's ongoing policy of harassment of Blacks who are opposed to the apartheid system of government. To date, over fifty Members of Congress have agreed to lend their services to political prisoners, dissidents, and banned persons in South Africa.

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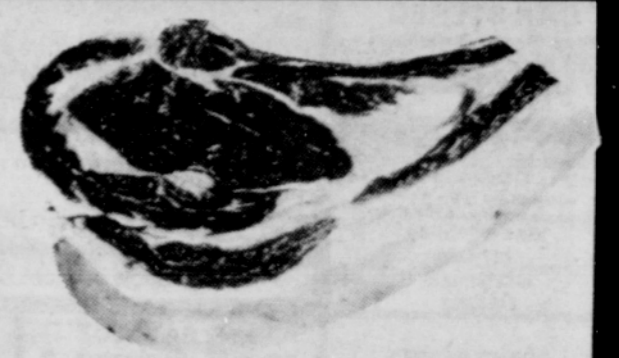
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