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PUSH TO BOYCOTT REVLON

Monday, May 18, at 1 p.m., Operation PUSH Cleveland and the Ohio Association of Beauticians, Inc. "funeralized" the Revlon Company at the House of Wills Funeral Home. The serviced began with a processional of religious representatives, sororities, fraternities, community leaders, etc. Following the "casket" filled with Revlon products, resolutions and an obituary were presented.

The funeral came about as a result of PUSH's boycott of the

Revlon Company. The boycott was initiated after Irving Bottner, president of Revlon's professional products division, stated in *Newsweek Magazine*, "in the next couple of years, the black-owned businesses will disappear. They will all be sold to white companies." Additionally, Bottner said, "We are accused of taking business away from black companies, but black consumers buy quality products. Too often their black brothers didn't do them any good." This was taken as an in-

sult to the black community, and a projection of white companies to eventually take over the black consumer market of hair care and cosmetics, an estimated billion dollar a year business.

All persons were asked to come dressed in traditional color of mourning to symbolize their sincerity in the symbolic funeral service. Mourners were encouraged to bring their Revlon products for burial preparations.

College President: A Man of Achievement



Dr. Richard Turner, III, President of Lane Community College.

by Tiffany Kell

During a time when very few Blacks got an education, academics were top priority for Dr. Richard Turner, III, President of Lane Community College, in Eugene. Neither of Turner's parents received a college education, in fact his father never finished high school, quitting in the eleventh grade to become a carpenter.

There was never any doubt in Turner's parents' mind that he would create his own footsteps. In high school, Turner wasn't interested in sports, music was his first love.

Turner was born and raised in Charleston, South Carolina. At the age of five, Turner began studying the piano. Through high school his enthusiasm for music blossomed as he sang with the school choir and continued to vigorously study the piano. On Sundays Turner played the organ at church.

"I had the opportunity and good fortune of having a good elementary and secondary school," said Turner who added that, "Avery graduates are very well known throughout the United States."

By graduation time, 1952, Turner's heart was set on becoming a concert pianist. In fact, because he graduated as class valedictorian, Turner delivered a speech at his commencement about how he would pursue such a career.

Turner stepped directly out of high school and into college with a four-year scholarship at Fisk University, in Nashville, Tennessee, where he studied music.

Academics have never been enough for Turner. While at Fisk he helped found a music honorary fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha and was also a member of Phi Mu Alpha-Sinfonia fraternity serving as President for a year and secretary for another.

Turner's activities were not limited to the University. He served as a student deacon at the Fisk Union Church and became a member of the Nation-

al Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In fact the list of associations and community activities that Turner has been involved in throughout his life reads like a novel.

About half way through his career at Fisk, Turner realized that there were other valedictorians at Fisk and that "the competition was very keen." At this point, Turner, with the guidance of his parents, began taking classes in teaching just in case his career as a concert pianist didn't pan out, said Turner.

Turner's time wasn't filled strictly with academics and activities. He held a number of jobs to help put him through school. "I knew what work was," said Turner.

Turner and his brother would work nights helping their father with janitorial work in the business district of Charleston. At Christmas time, Turner worked as a postman, and during the summers, he held a variety of jobs over his college career, including a parking lot attendant, a waiter for the Milwaukee railroad and a waiter at a local restaurant.

Exploitation was a way of life, says Turner who worked for \$3.00 a week plus tips as a waiter. "Summer jobs were not easy to find," especially for Black college students, said Turner.

There was always a job if you were willing to work at something that was not in keeping with your knowledge, said Turner. "A lot was accomplished on the backs of people" in those days.

In May 1956, Turner graduates from Fisk with a bachelor of arts degree and departmental honors. At his graduation ceremonies, Turner performed a senior piano recital.

The summer after he graduated, said Turner, "I was encouraged by my aunt in Nashville to continue my graduate studies at Indiana University." Turner did so, but only during the summers, because after he had graduated, the chairman of the music department at Fisk highly recommended him to the President of Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to succeed their chairperson of the music department.

Turner met with the Dean of Academics in Louisville, Kentucky, for an interview and was immediately offered the job. Turner accepted, and worked at Stillman for 12 years from 1958 to 1968. He acted as an Associate Professor of Music where his starting pay was \$3100 a year, and after 12 years it rose to \$7000 a year.

During those 12 years, Turner engaged himself in a multitude of activities. In 1957 he married Deloras, his wife of twenty years. He avoided the draft by enlisting in the active army reserves which entailed six months of active duty and five-and-one-half years of inactive duty.

The army reserves was also another success story. While enlisted at the Non-commissioned Officer Academy, Turner was the only Black man and finished first in his class of 55 students. Turner received a letter says that "although I might attend it (the graduation ceremony), they were not going to recognize me." Turner doesn't look back on the denial with bitter remembrance. The important part of it all was that he got a letter from his commandant that promoted him to sergeant, said Turner.

Turner said that he enjoyed working at Stillman, because, although it was a "predominantly Black student body, the faculty and staff was well integrated." It was a "good setting for race relations," said Turner.

Turner, himself, was very active in promoting race integration while at Stillman. He founded a college community concert association. "It was an opportunity, the concert series, for a community that was strictly segregated socially, to come together within an integrated setting. So it did a lot to improve race relations," said Turner.

Overcoming racial prejudice is a lifetime goal for Turner, as he has worked hard amongst white professors when the south was in racial turmoil. Turner worked to establish good relationships with the faculty and staff at the University of Alabama, which was an all-white college.

From 1963 to 1968 Turner was an active member of the American Association of University Professors. He served as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Stillman chapter and later of the state chapter. By 1967 Turner had risen to Vice President of the state chapter, serving among mostly white professors.

In 1968 Turner was offered the position of the chairman of the Department of Music at Fisk. Turner jumped at the opportunity to work for his alma mater.

Fisk had not been accredited for eleven years when Turner began working in July, and by December, Turner has elevated Fisk's Music Department to a four-year accredited program.

Not having accreditation didn't mean that its music school lacked in quality, said Turner. In fact, Fisk was the only Black college that was recognized by the National Schools Association of Music.

Fisk was also active in bettering race relations, said Turner. It held race

relations seminars where "Blacks and whites from all over the state came to speak. In many cases it was the only opportunity for Blacks and whites to meet on an equal basis," said Turner, "and talk about intellectual topics."

While Turner worked at Fisk, he also helped to build on Fisk's strong

ethnic Afro-American music department, creating a Ph.D. in ethno-musicology, the only one of its kind in the U.S.

By 1971 Turner was receiving offers to work at other colleges. At one time he was offered the position as Dean of Instruction at Harrisburg Community College in Pennsylvania. After extensive interviews, Turner was declined the position because there was already another Black man on the staff and the board of trustees didn't want two Black men at a time, said Turner.

The racial slap-in-the-face from Harrisburg didn't squelch Turner's employment opportunities, however. He was soon offered the position of Dean of Student Activities at the Community College of Baltimore. Turner accepted the position and worked directly with students, often as a counselor, from 1971-1974.

It was a rough time for students and faculty, said Turner, who had to work directly with the rampant student unrest. "A lot of the starch came out of my collar," admitted Turner.

From 1974 to 1979, Turner worked at the Harbor campus at Baltimore as Dean of Faculty and Provost, and then at the Liberty campus, after which he took on the job as President at South Central Community College in New Haven, Connecticut, from 1979 to 1985. In 1985 Turner moved to Lane Community College to work, also as President.

Turner's journey has been an uphill climb in higher education. Never has he worked below the university level. He says that he never really met with any personal racial obstacles, outside of the one at Harrisburg, during his professional career. His qualifications, drive and determination moved him right along.

The obstacles that Turner faced were those that anyone might face, regardless of race. "When one is attempting to do things well, he creates uncertainties in persons who don't want to do as well . . . so you challenge the people you work with and for." Turner doesn't talk as if he ever hesitated along his climb, but, said Turner, "Sometimes I do feel intimidated."

Non-Removal of Black Jurors Passes House

by Larry Baker

Once again, Rep. Margaret Carter made state history by introducing H.B. 3007 and its passage in the House.

House Bill 3007 prohibits any party in a criminal trial from exercising peremptory jury challenges solely because the challenged juror belongs to a recognizable group with respect to race, color, religion, national origin or sex.

"This bill arises out of the sometimes questionable practice where an attorney may use his or her peremptory challenges to eliminate from a jury any person or group of persons from serving on juries when a like person has been on trial," says Carter.

A similar bill during the 1985 legislative session was introduced but never made it out of committee.

"The practice has been used in some parts of the country most notably to eliminate Black citizens from serving on juries where a Black person is on trial," continued Carter. "This bill would codify the prohibition of such practices under Oregon law."

Carter reminded her colleagues that in 1986, the United States Supreme Court in a number of related decisions struck down this practice.

"A jury should be a body of peers or equals of the person on trial, whose rights peers are there to determine," said Carter. "The very fact that a person is singled out and expressly denied, by practice, a right to participate in the administration of justice, and in rights given to fellow citizens to serve on juries, is a despicable practice underserving of Oregon."

Carter was questioned by some legislators as to the unfairness of such legislation.

"It is a practice that has no place in this state or in any courtroom of law," said Carter. "In no uncertain terms, it is a prejudicial practice."

Carter concluded by saying, "Stereotypes of race, ethnicity, gender and religion do not belong in the justice system. It is inappropriate to eliminate a juror for a God-given difference."

H.B. 3007 passed with a majority vote, and not it will be a task for the Oregon State Senate to tackle.