

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

In the days before AIDS, oat bran, and the diminishing ozone layer, times were still tough—primarily for minorities.

What follows is this week in history, and the role these seven days have played both for and against the struggles of various minority groups to obtain equality.

March 29, 1920-Florence Kelley, General Secretary of Consumer's League, speaks in Portland. Kelley was a driving force in pushing for eight-hour work shifts, standardized minimum wage, and accurate labeling on products.

March 30, 1920-Women's suffrage (right to vote) for Mississippi is voted down 94-23 in the House of Representatives.

Regrettably, few civil rights victories occurred in the forty years that ensued. The '60s, however, was a particularly revolutionary phase for human rights, touched off by the presidency of John F. Kennedy. Lyndon Johnson tended to live off of Kennedy's accomplishments, but at least did not back the movement toward equality. Other keystone figures, such as John Lennon, furthered the movement even after the libertarian Kennedy metamorphosis ended.

April 2, 1962-The Roman Catholic archbishop of New Orleans, Joseph Francis Rummel, threatens excommunication to members of the racist group White Citizens Council.

March 30, 1963-Federal government seeks order to stop interference with "negroes" registering to vote. City officials in Greenwood, Mississippi arrest eight African-Americans on charges of "disorderly

conduct" when the workers attempt to register other African-Americans to vote. Though the population of Blacks outnumbered whites 2:1 in the area, the registered white voters outnumbered Blacks 16:1.

April 2, 1963-Though known for its liberalism, Berkeley, CA turns down an ordinance designed to prevent city housing discrimination. Voters in Berkeley also elected a mayor who did not approve of the ordinance.

March 31, 1964-Sen. Hubert Humphrey, D-Minn., gives a 3-hour-and-25-minute, pushing for the civil rights bill in the Senate. "They have been the most patient people God ever created," he said of Blacks being banned from restaurants and "public" parks. "But they are sick of it; they've had enough of it." Said Sen. Thomas Kuchel, R-Calif., of the bill: "It is not a partisan fight...it is an American fight. It is a fight to keep faith with the hopes and aspirations of those who come before us and those who will come after us."

March 31, 1965-Benjamin Clark, member of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, announced an African-American boycott of merchants in the entire state of Alabama. The boycott was in response to the inability of Alabama's Black citizens to vote (remember, women fought and won this battle nearly a half-century before blacks gained the right to vote).

Same day-A demonstration by the National Party of America (an anti-semitic organization) at Portland State College results in students tearing up the NPA's signs, bashing the vehicle they demonstrated in,

by Angelique Sanders

and even lighting the truck on fire. Police removed six NPA members from the scene (for protectional purposes, not to press charges).

March 31, 1966-An election in South Africa results in-what was, according to the Prime Minister of the all-white Nationalist Party, Hendrik Verwoerd-"the greatest election victory in South Africa's history." This is what his "great victory" means: of the ruling body the House of Assembly, 126 seats went to the Nationalist Party, 39 went to the opposing United Party, the liberal Progressive Party received one seat, and the four remaining seats went to "the coloreds". Actually, these seats were not even held by persons of color; rather, whites ruled these seats (and, consequently, the power that came with them) to supposedly represent the nonwhite population (which numbered twelve million at the time, over the white count of less than 3.5 million). On that day, Apartheid took a great leap forward, and human equality was given a great shove backward.

April 3, 1968-Dr. Martin Luther King is slapped with a ten-day restraining order, by U.S. District Judge Bailey Brown. The motion's purpose was to prevent King from leading a march.

It would be farcical to say the battle is over, and that Blacks and whites, Christians and Jews, women and children, and other minorities have triumphed. These dates were only stepping stones. Should the war for equality ever end, every human will benefit.



Young World Talent Foundation, Inc. is registering girls ages 13 to 17 for its photo fashions competitions. The categories will include Portrait Photos and Sewn Fashion Photos. The sewing awards will provide an opportunity for teens to express their individuality by creating their own look. For contest rules and an application send a stamped self-addressed business size envelope to: Young World Talent Foundation, Incorporated, P.O. Box 19234, Chicago, Illinois 60619. The Black Teenage Contest begins the national search for Miss Black Teenage U.S.A. (United States Achievers) Pageant, to be held in Chicago, Illinois. Lessie M. Jackson is the founder/director of Miss Black Teenage U.S.A. and Young World Talent Foundation, Incorporated. She is a veteran pageant promoter with over 25 years of experience. From left to right are teenagers Angel Jackson and Denine Taylor preparing for the sewing contest.

Make Use of What You Have, Stop Making Excuses For What You Don't Have . . .

by Ulysses Tucker, Jr.

Recently, after hitting several buckets of golf balls with a group of "brothers" from various geographical locations around the United States, the topic of conversation progressed to the social life/culture, Black leadership, and the rich traditions Portland lacks compared to other cities.

A couple of the "brothers" were real critical, but most of them did not really care because each had the economic means to fly anywhere in the country when necessary. Others were just plain tolerant. We talked about Jesse Jackson in Washington, D.C., Andy Young and Maynard Jackson in Atlanta, David Dinkins in New York City, Tom Bradley in Los Angeles, and Governor Douglas Wilder in Virginia, not to mention Norm Rice, newly elected Mayor of Seattle.

When the topic hit social life, we talked about "Dominiques" (Wilkins) in Atlanta, "Two Steps Down" in Brooklyn, the "Cotton Club" in Chicago, "Triple's" in D.C., "Cliff's" in Oakland, and the "Video Bar" in Dallas. Talked about the Fredrick Douglass Home in D.C., Black colleges, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Hyde Park in Chicago, the site where Crispus Attucks a Black man, was killed in the American Revolution (he was the first to die), the Museum of African Art in New York, Black neighborhoods, Black-owned businesses, Black women, and everything Black under the sun that Oregon did not have or need more of.

Unfortunately, it's not uncommon for young, urban Black professionals or "outsiders" as they are called by some local people, to "Portland Bash" in a non-malicious way. I am guilty myself to be real

honest. Call it a way of bonding between "outsiders" or a means to share the weekly frustrations caused by being culturally isolated in Oregon. Thinking or talking about positive experiences in other cities can ultimately provide strength during pain and dark moments.

Three days later, I picked up a Royal Esquire Times and noticed a "Tribute to Black History Month: Blacks Contributing to Oregon Products and Services." While reading through the extensive list of names, I realized that Portland has some major league players in the area of arts, politics, education, and entertainment. In your major cities, most people believe that there is great power in numbers and you can look as far as the last race for mayor in New York City and the governor's race in Virginia to see how numbers can get you over the hump.

Also to my surprise, I knew about 90% of the people listed in the tribute and more importantly, each were a telephone call away. I thought to myself, list the 100 most influential Black people in ten major cities and chances are, they are not accessible. Not even to media types like myself.

Granted, Oregon is very soft in terms of number of Blacks and other culture opportunities. However, it is strong in terms of who can individuals who can make decisions and return your telephone. Try getting a hold to the Dick Bogle equivalent in New York, Atlanta, Washington, D.C., Boston, or Philadelphia. They travel with very large entourages or armed guards. It's not uncommon to see Bogel or any other perceived Black leader out listening to jazz, strolling through Irving Park alone, or just

enjoying what the city does have to offer. More of us should.

Let me see, we have the National Headstart Director, Ron Herndon, living here as well as one of the few Black-owned and operated radio stations in the U.S. in KBMS, a Black Symphony head in James DePriest, a Black Superintendent of schools, Matthew Prophet; several Black publications, Black businesses, and a Editor, Bill Hilliard, at the Oregonian. We have musicians like Marlon McClain of the Dazz Band, who has worked with the Crusaders, Maurice White, Kenny G., Jeff Lorber, and Pleasure. We have Mel Brown, Bruce Carter, and a host of other excellent individuals in the arts, athletics, and more. Wally Scales, VP/Marketing-Promotions has been with the Trail blazers 18 years. He was hired at a time when there were hardly, if any, Blacks in management around the National Basketball Association. We have many true pioneers for a state that has only 30,000 Blacks in the entire state, the same amount of people living within ten blocks in Chicago's Robert Taylor Homes housing project.

It is my opinion that big cities make business, political, and educational leaders less accessible because the demands and expectations are greater. The pressure too! The poverty is worst, the crime is higher, unemployment is an acceptable lifestyle, moral is terrible, esteem is lost, and hopelessness rolls down urban streets like a mighty stream. Portland has hope. As long as leaders are accessible and willing to listen to the will of the people, hope will stay alive.

Anyway, even when I did live in those other major cities, I failed to make use of the cultural opportunities surrounding me. I found peace in knowing that I had options should I desired enrichment. In Portland, I have far less options but I enjoy those options to the fullest. In short, the next time I got together with my "buddies" for some golf and the "bashing" started, I suggested that "if Portland gives you lemons, make some lemonade and chill."

Better still, the next time you hear someone complaining about Portland, tell them about the little kid, who moaned to his parents about not having new "Air Jordans" like the others until he ran across another kid with no feet. Make use of what you got . . .

Self Enhancement, Inc., the non-profit group headed by E. Ray Leary and Tony Hopson, would like for you to join them on March 30, 1990, from 4:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. for their "Spring Fling." It will be held on the 41st floor of the U.S. Bank Tower. Donation, \$10.00. Proceeds will support their summer programs. By the way, Ray & Tony are not alone over there! Hello to Rick, Joy, Brenda, Phil, and the rest of the staff. Keep up the good work with our young people.



about your SOCIAL SECURITY . . .

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services / Social Security Administration

QUESTION: My brother was recently diagnosed as having AIDS. Will he be able to get health care under Medicare? He is only 32.

ANSWER: There is no immediate coverage available to him. To receive health benefits under Medicare, a person must be age 65 or older, or severely disabled and have received Social Security disability benefits for 24 months. If he is not eligible for Social Security disability benefits, he can apply for supplemental security income (SSI) benefits and possibility its companion health care program, Medicaid. He may be eligible if his income and resources are within certain limits. He should contact Social Security at 1(800)234-5772 for Social Security and SSI benefits, and Adult and Family Services in Oregon for Medicaid.

QUESTION: My wife recently suffered a stroke which left her unable to speak clearly. The doctor said that speech therapy will help her. Will Medicare pay for this?

ANSWER: Medicare medical insurance can help pay for your wife's speech therapy. However, her doctor must prescribe the therapy, set up a plan of treatment, and periodically review the plan. She can receive those services as an outpatient of a participating hospital or skilled nursing facility, home health agency, clinic, rehabilitation agency, or public health agency approved by Medicare. The organization providing the therapy must submit the claim and will charge her only for that part of the 475 deductible which has not been met, 20 percent of the remaining approved amount (the co-payment), and the charges for any noncovered services.

QUESTION: I receive Medicare services through a health maintenance organization (HMO). The other day I received a notice saying that some of the charges were not approved for payment by Medicare. I feel that the services I received are covered services. What can I do?

ANSWER: Decisions concerning coverage and payment for services are generally made by the HMO involved. Any questions about a decision in these two categories should be directed to your HMO. Each year you should receive a full, written explanation of your appeal rights from your HMO. If you haven't been receiving this, contact your plan's membership office or write to the Health Care Financing Administration to obtain one.

QUESTION: Why do some families receive Social Security survivors benefits after the death of a parent and others do not?

ANSWER: Some reasons might be: the deceased parent was not insured under Social Security; the children are too old to qualify; or the surviving spouse cannot qualify because he or she earns too much to receive benefits. If the deceased parent was insured

under Social Security, survivors benefits are payable to the surviving spouse until the youngest child reaches age 16, and to the surviving spouse until the youngest child reaches age 16, and to the surviving spouse from age 60 (or 50 if disabled). Surviving children who remain unmarried can receive benefits until they are age 18 (or 19 if still in full-time attendance at an elementary or secondary school). Benefits are also payable for children 18 or over who were disabled before age 22.

QUESTION: My husband is permanently disabled and gets SSI. Our daughter wants to live with us temporarily with her 3-year-old son. Will Social Security reduce or cut off my husband's SSI payment because she is living with us?

ANSWER: Any change in the number of persons living in the household of an SSI recipient should be reported to Social Security. His benefit might be reduced; however, under some circumstances it might even increase. Call Social Security at 1(800)234-5772 and explain the situation.



Carl A. Tellarico, Purchasing Manager, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., accepts the National Minority Business Council (NMBC) Award for "Outstanding Corporate Support" from Denise Richardson, WNYW-TV broadcaster. Seagram received the award "in recognition of tremendous contributions and enthusiastic support of small/minority business." The Company was also cited for an "interest and concern in providing the opportunity to do business [that] exceeds expectations." The award was presented during the NMBC 10th Anniversary Business Awards luncheon in New York. The NMBC is a non-profit umbrella organization that encompasses more than 200 minority businesses across the nation. Its purpose is to assist minority entrepreneurs to develop their marketing, sales and management skills; to foster economic growth for minority enterprises, and to move such companies into the mainstream of the global business economy. Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc., is the U.S. subsidiary of The Seagram Company Ltd., a leading worldwide producer and marketer of distilled spirits, wines, coolers, juices and soft drinks. For more information, contact Sheila Lynch, (212) 557-0100.



DEBBYE TURNER, MISS AMERICA 1990 is shown here holding the "AIDS Prevention Guide," a free publication produced by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to help parents and other concerned adults discuss HIV and AIDS prevention with young people. The guide, part of the federal government's "America Responds to AIDS" public information campaign, is available to adults by calling the National AIDS Hotline 1-800-342-AIDS (English-speaking), 1-800-344-SIDA (Spanish-speaking), or 1-800-AIDS-TTY (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf). Turner encourages parents to talk with their children about AIDS and supports the guide as part of her overall effort to speak out on issues of importance to young people and to the nation. In her travels throughout the U.S., she is urging young people to resist negative peer pressure and to strive for excellence.

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